



**Episode 4:
First Battle**

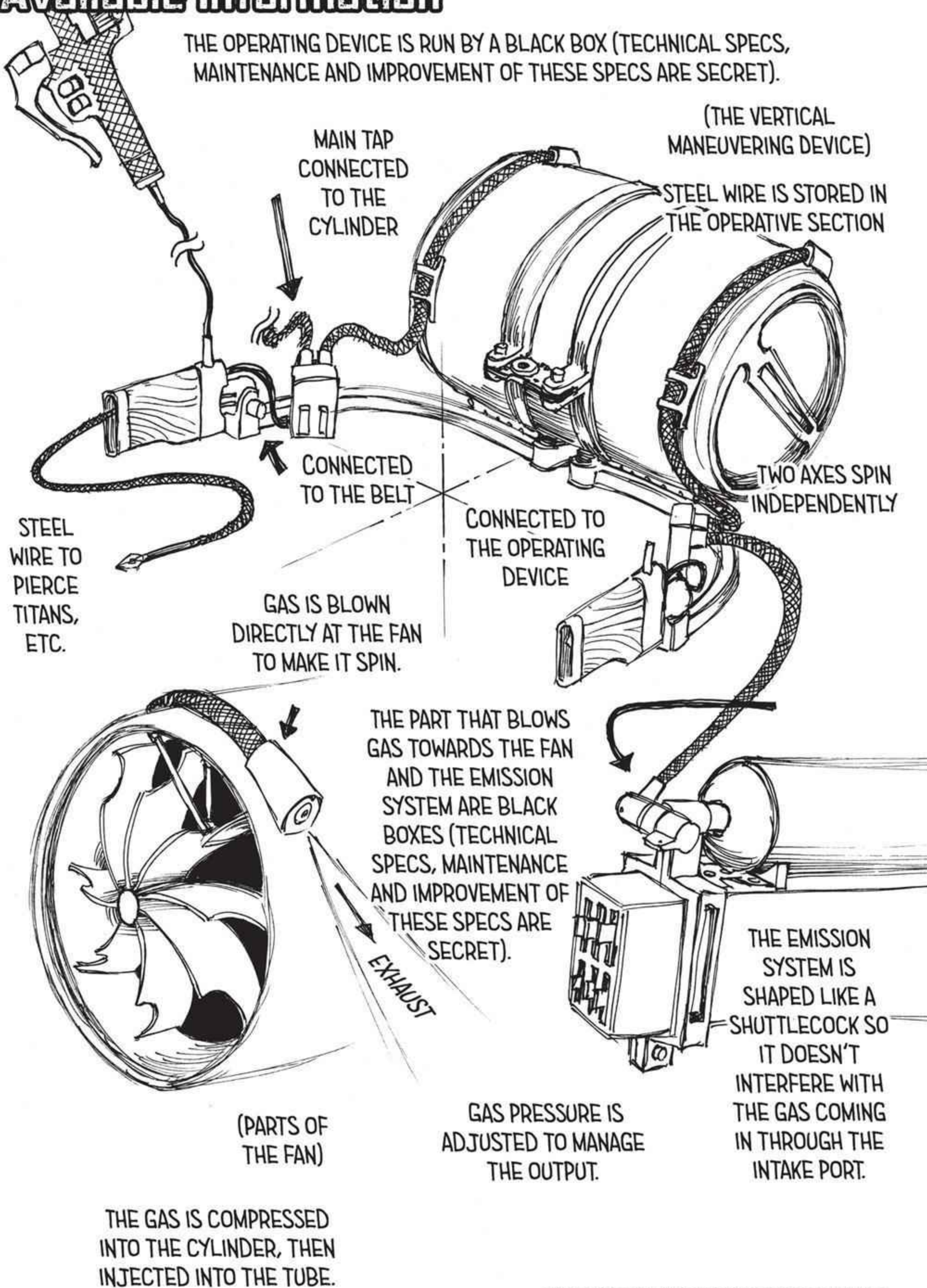




Current Publicly Available Information

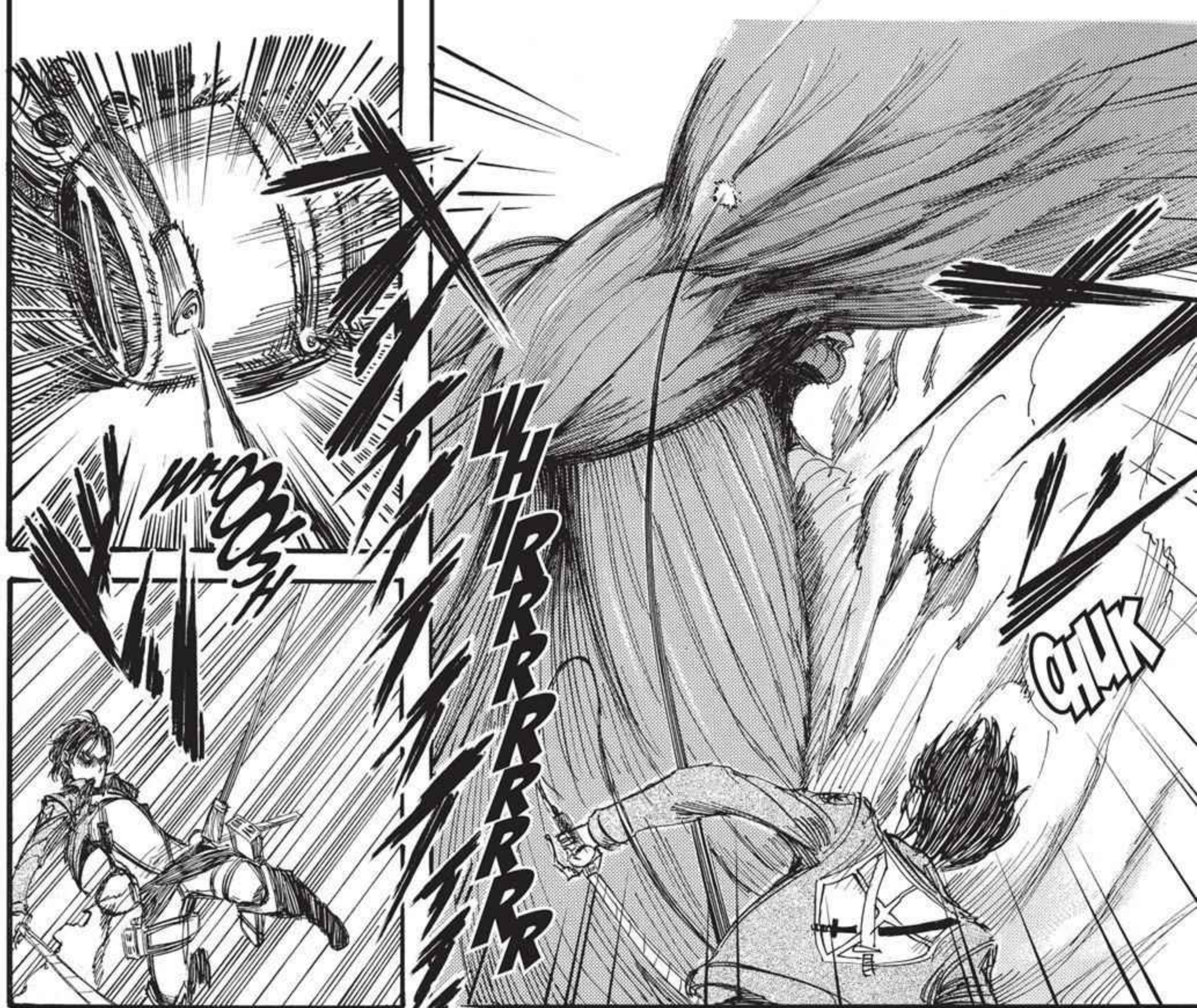
A Basic Overview of the Vertical Maneuvering Devices

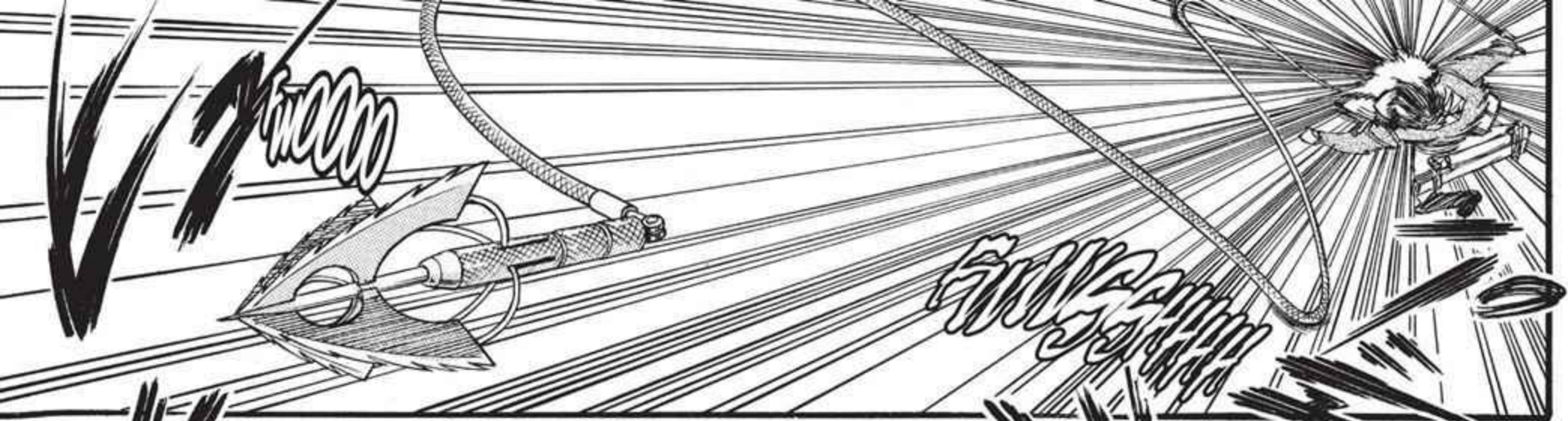
THE OPERATING DEVICE IS RUN BY A BLACK BOX (TECHNICAL SPECS, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF THESE SPECS ARE SECRET).



THANKS TO MY SCIENTIST FRIEND WHO HELPED ME COME UP WITH THIS!

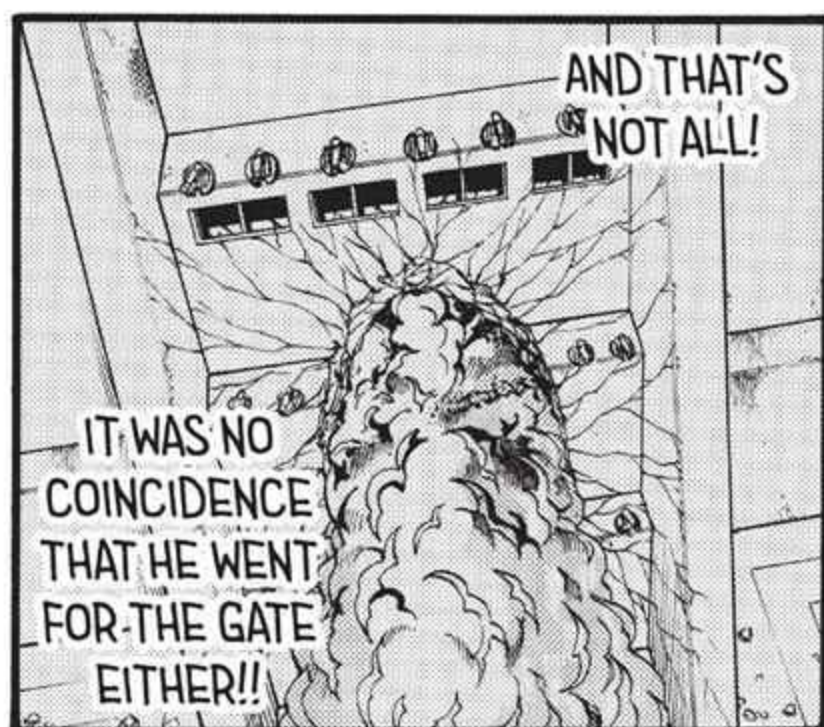
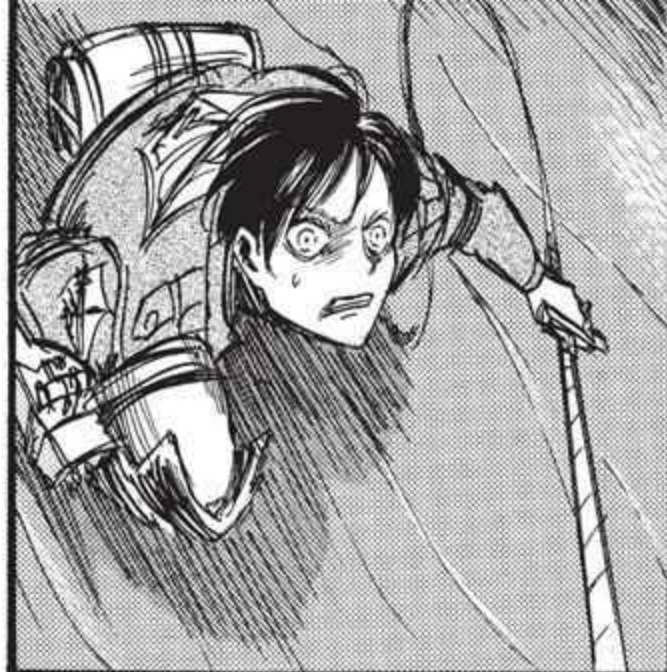






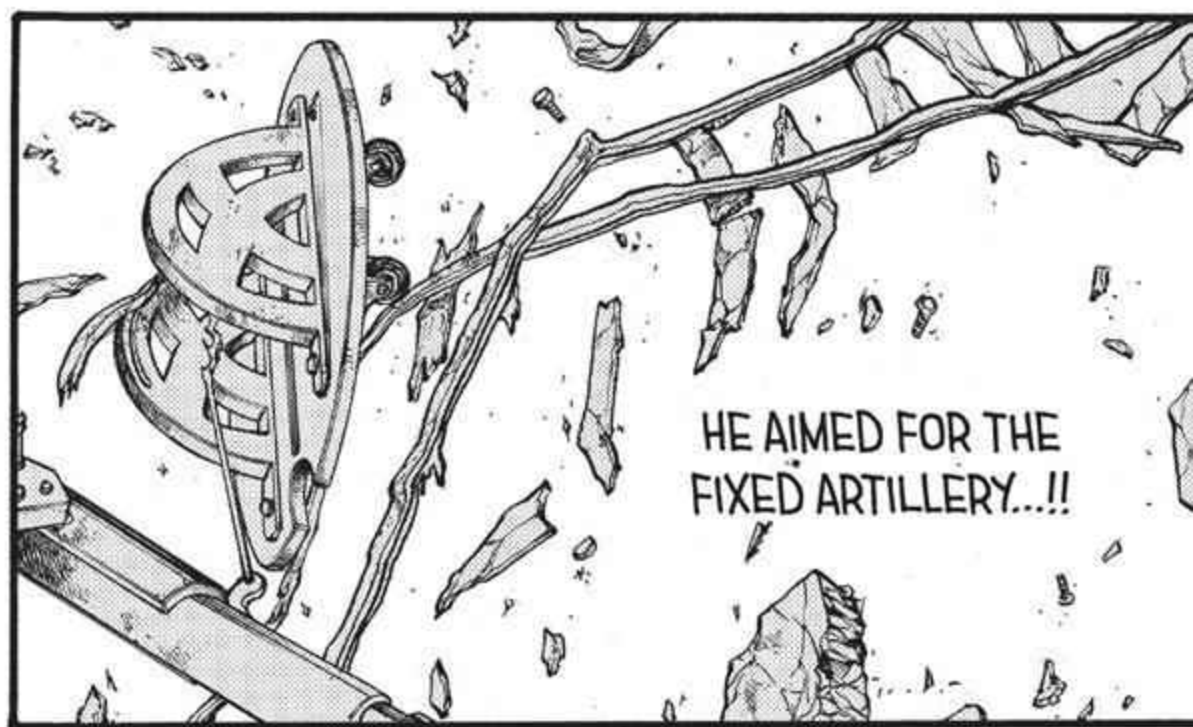


BASTARD...

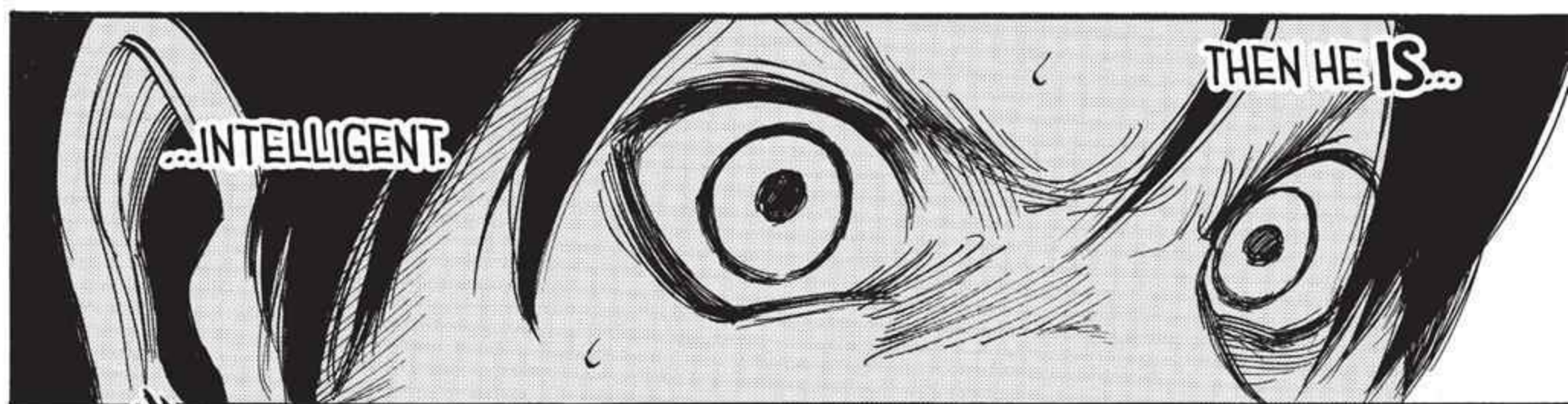


AND THAT'S NOT ALL!

IT WAS NO COINCIDENCE THAT HE WENT FOR THE GATE EITHER!!

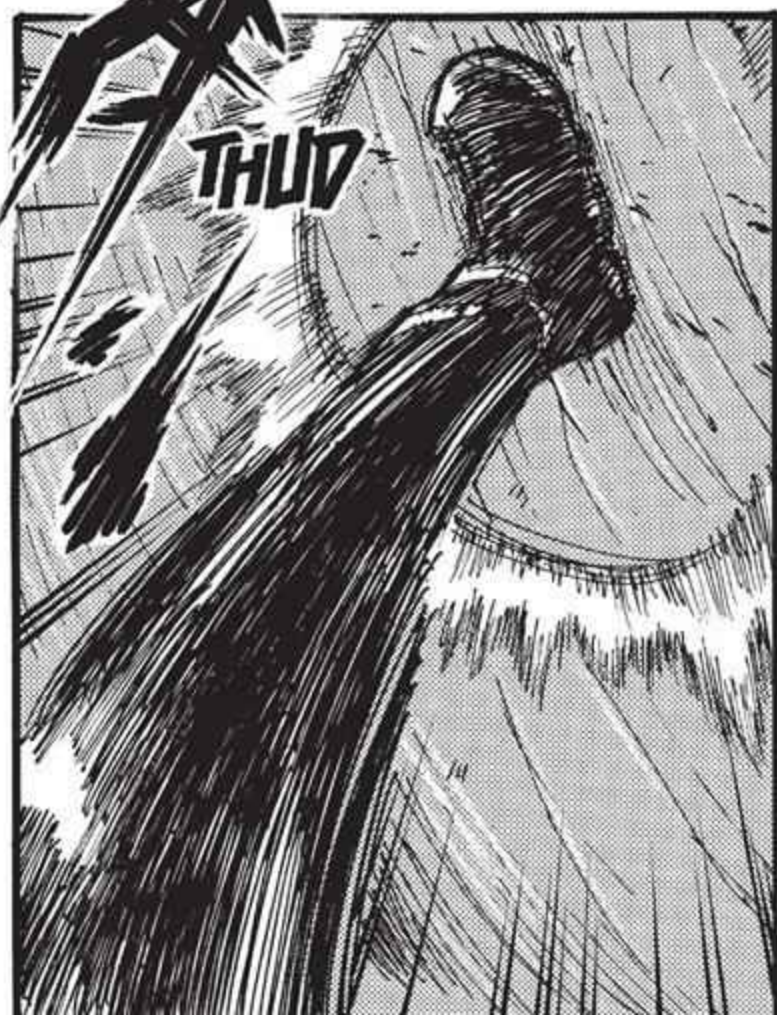


HE AIMED FOR THE FIXED ARTILLERY...!!



...INTELLIGENT

THEN HE IS...



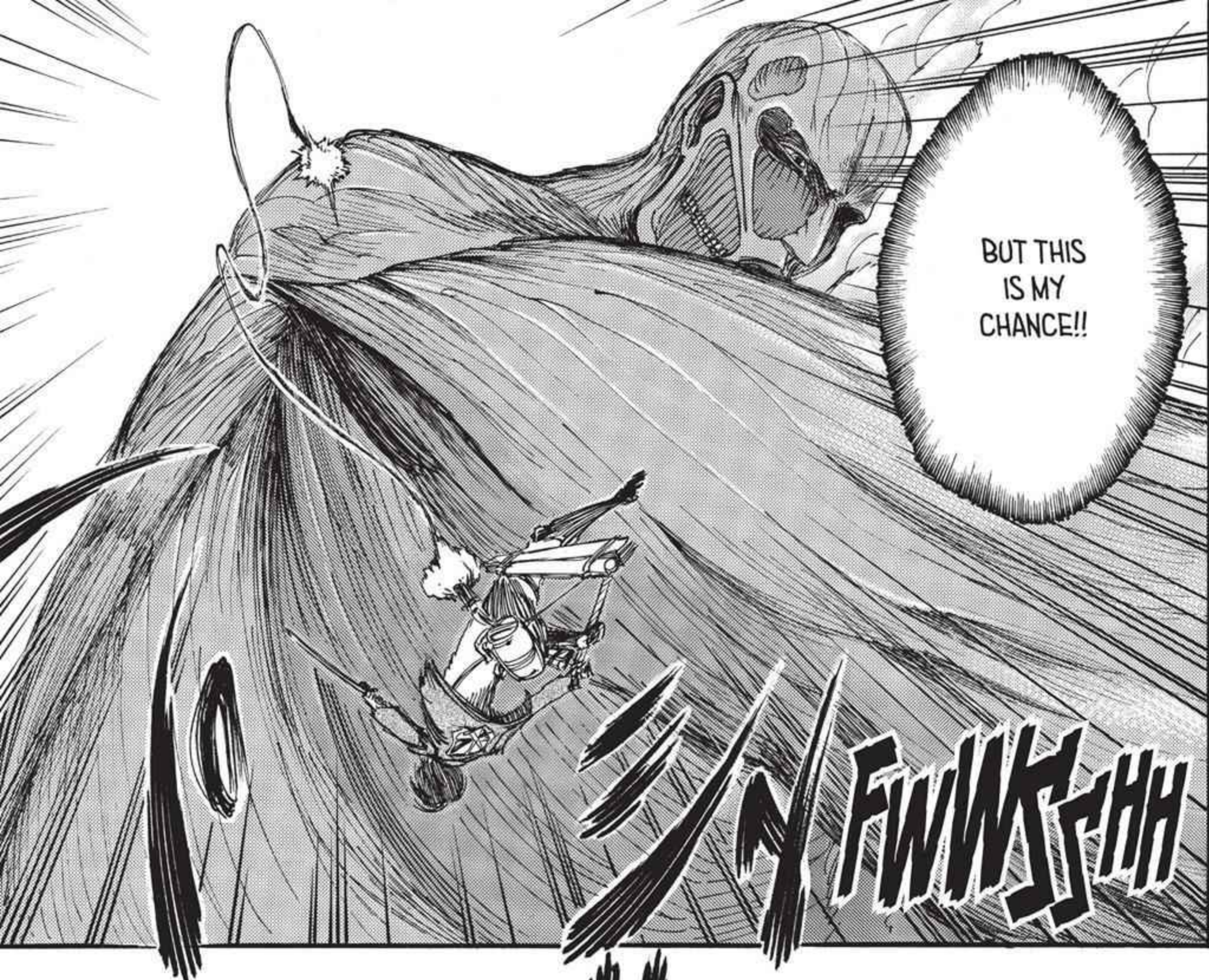
THUD



NHH!!



THUMP



BUT THIS
IS MY
CHANCE!!

FWINKSHH



THIS IS THE
ONLY ONE THAT
CAN BREAK
THROUGH THE
WALLS!

FWINKSHH



IF I CAN
JUST KILL
IT...!!

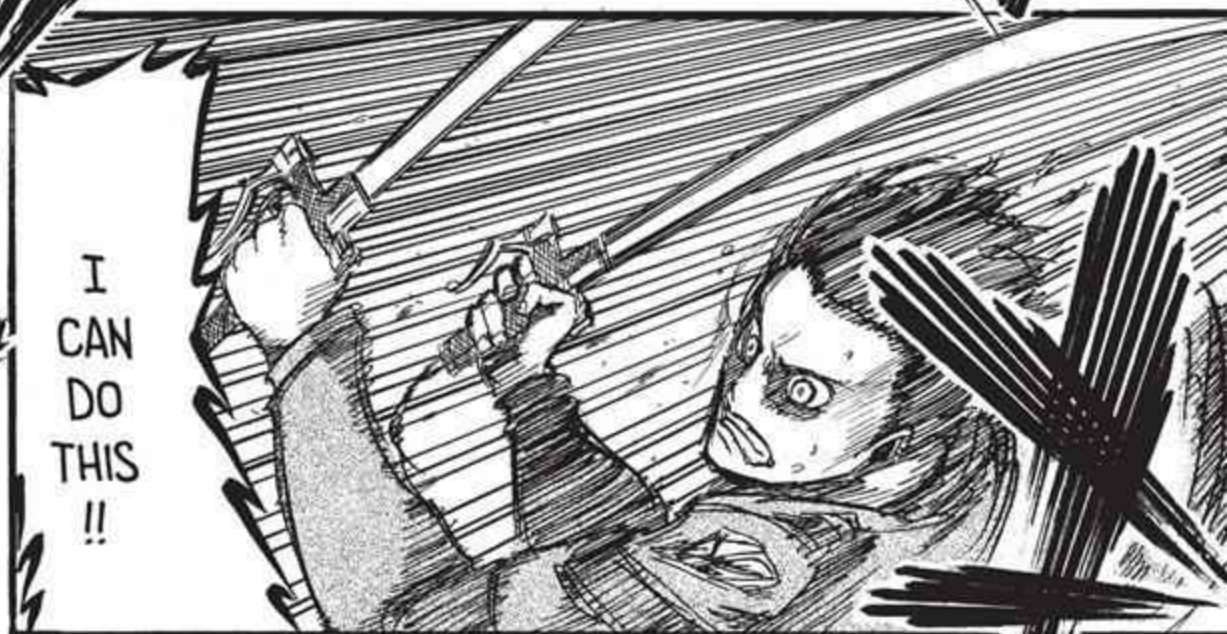
FWINKSHH



HE'S
SLOW!!



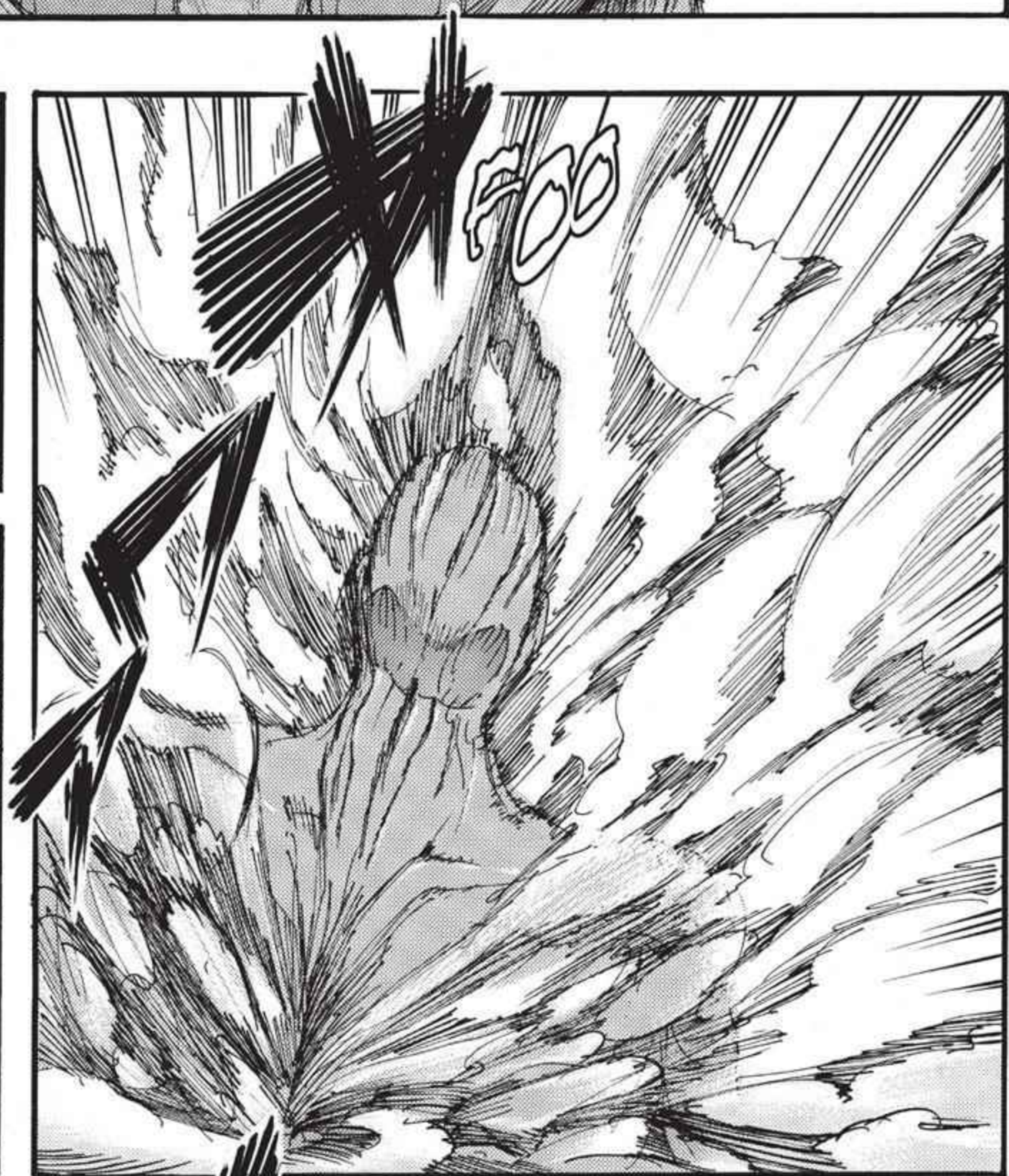
I
CAN
DO
THIS
!!



HE'S
DEAD!!



WHA...
?!

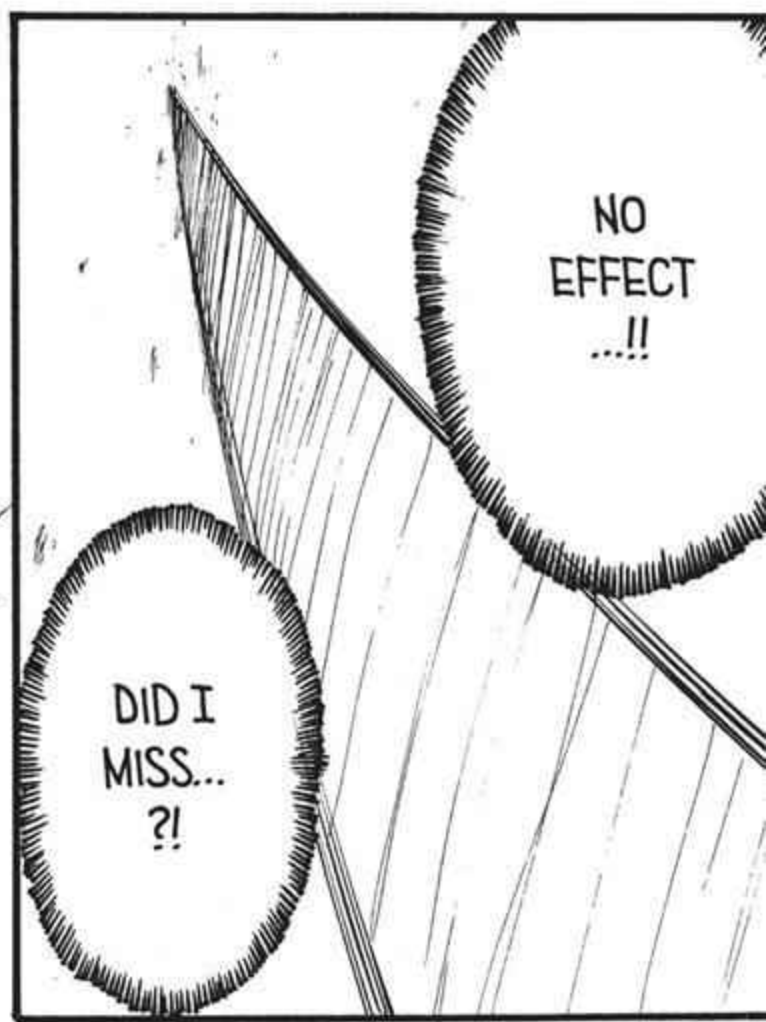
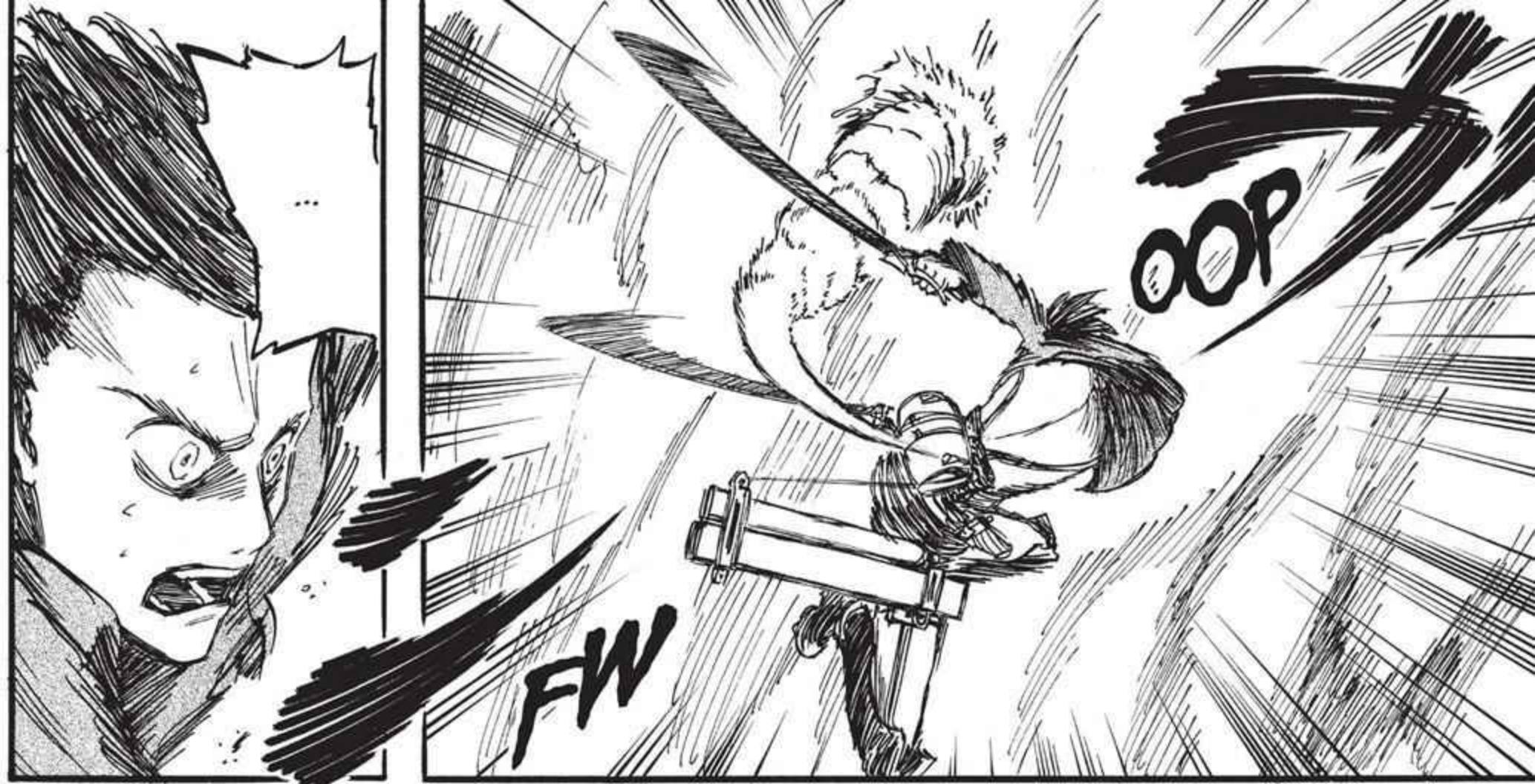


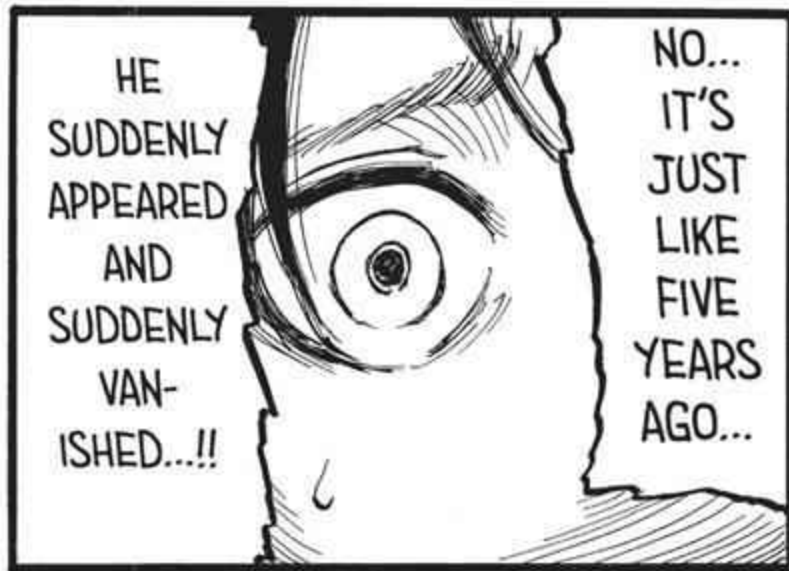
GOOOO!

WHOOO



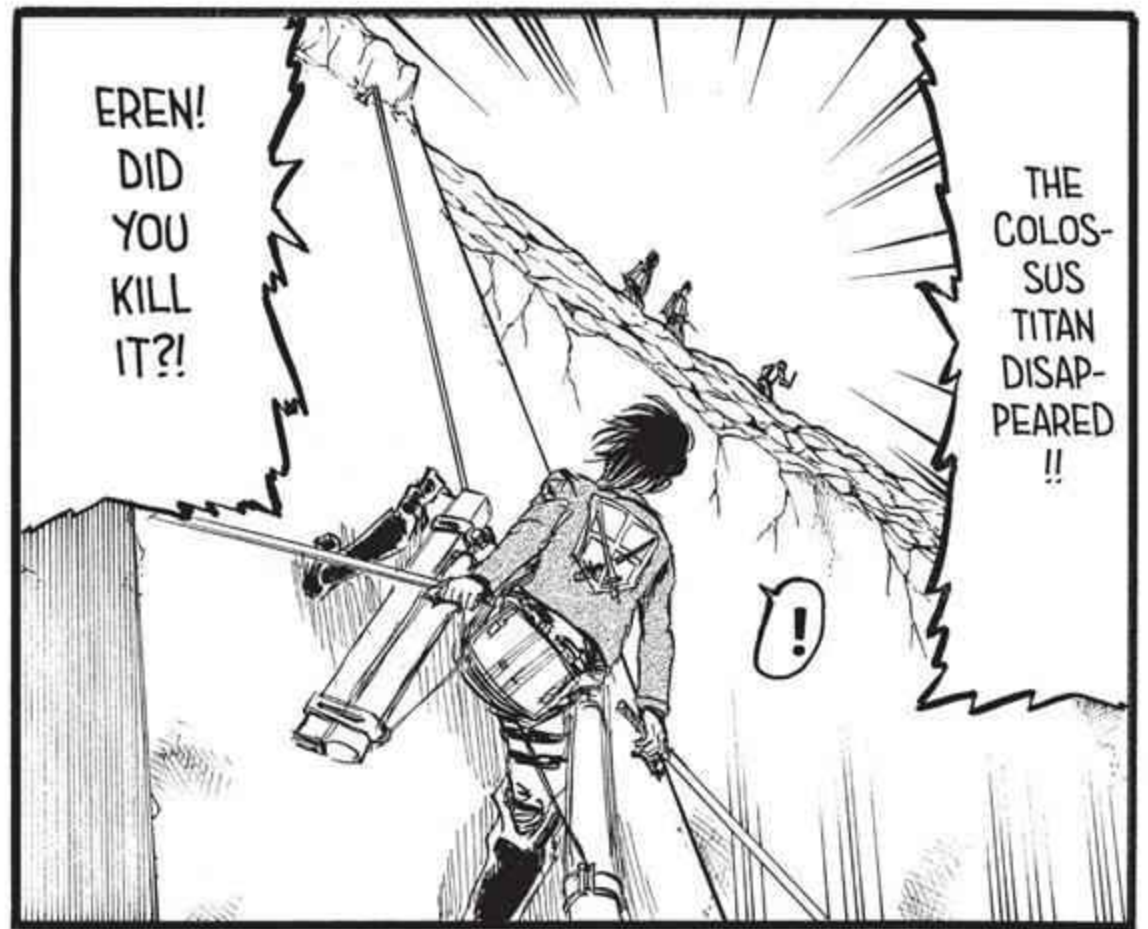
IT'S
HOT?!





HE
SUDDENLY
APPEARED
AND
SUDDENLY
VAN-
ISHED...!!

NO...
IT'S
JUST
LIKE
FIVE
YEARS
AGO...



EREN!
DID
YOU
KILL
IT?!

THE
COLOS-
SUS
TITAN
DISAP-
PEARED
!!



HEY... IS
THIS ANY
TIME TO
CHAT?!

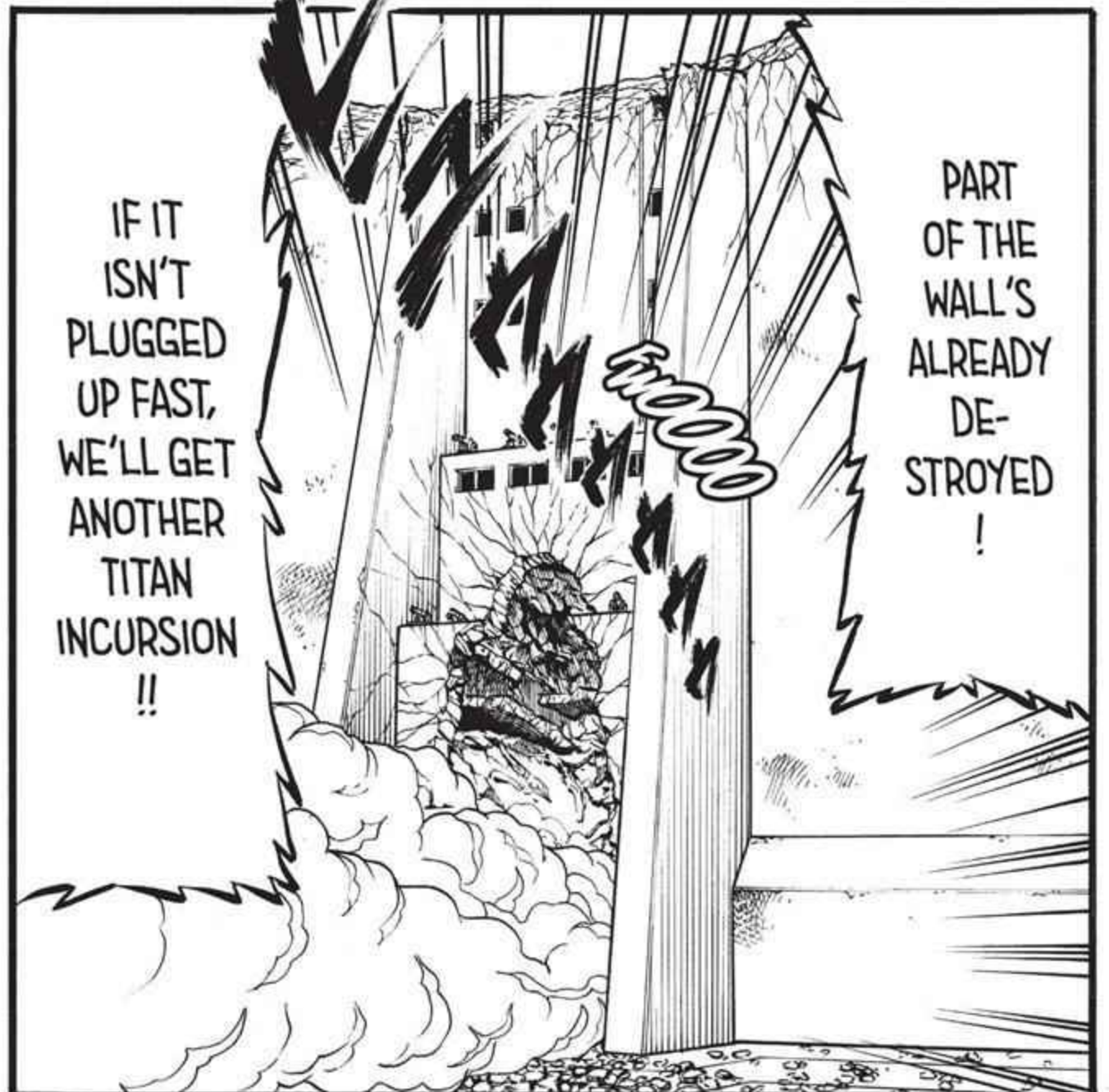
WHAT
ARE YOU
APOLOGIZ-
ING FOR?
WE
COULDN'T
EVEN
MOVE...



...I'M
SORRY.
I LET
HIM
GET
AWAY...

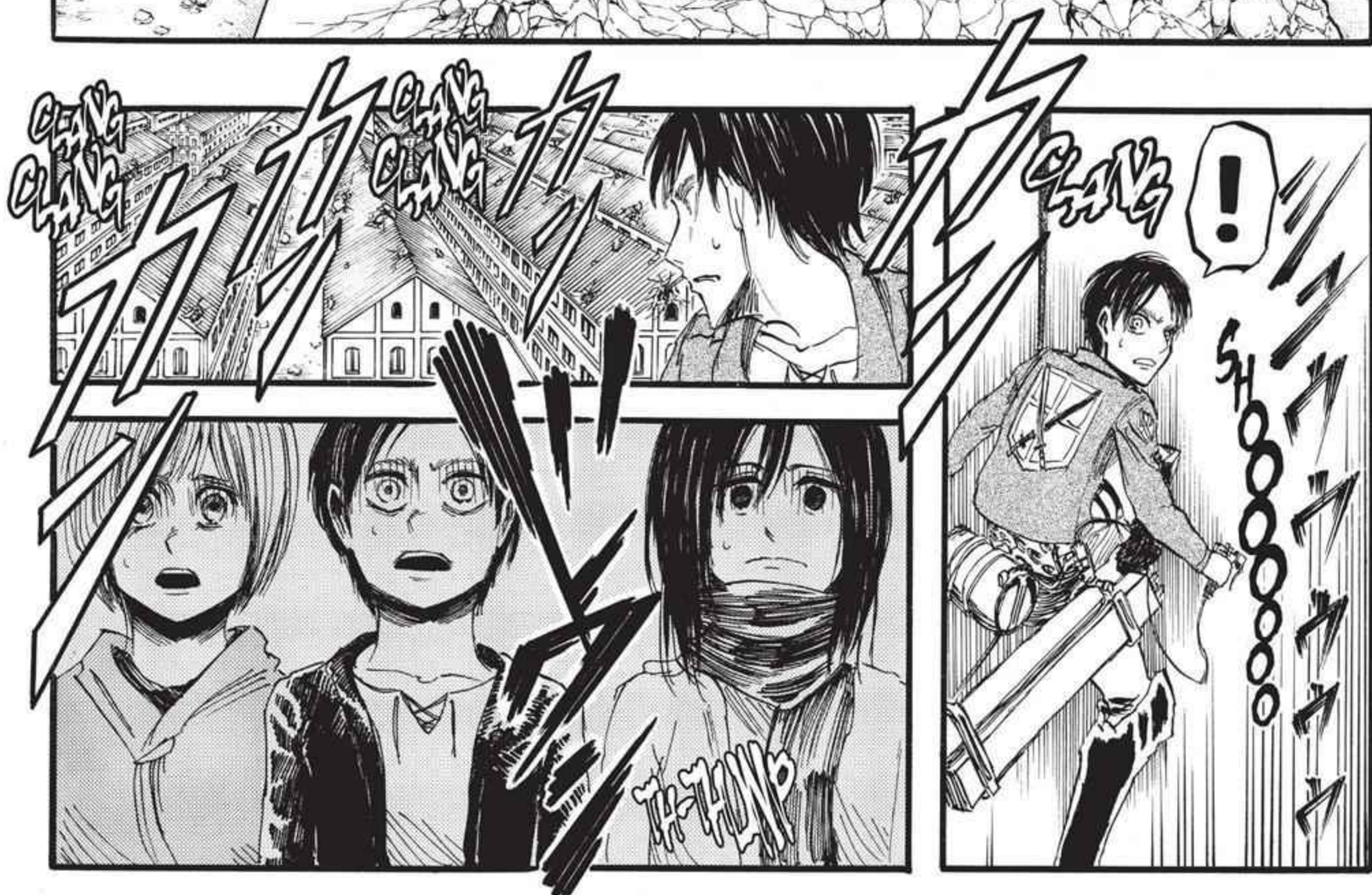


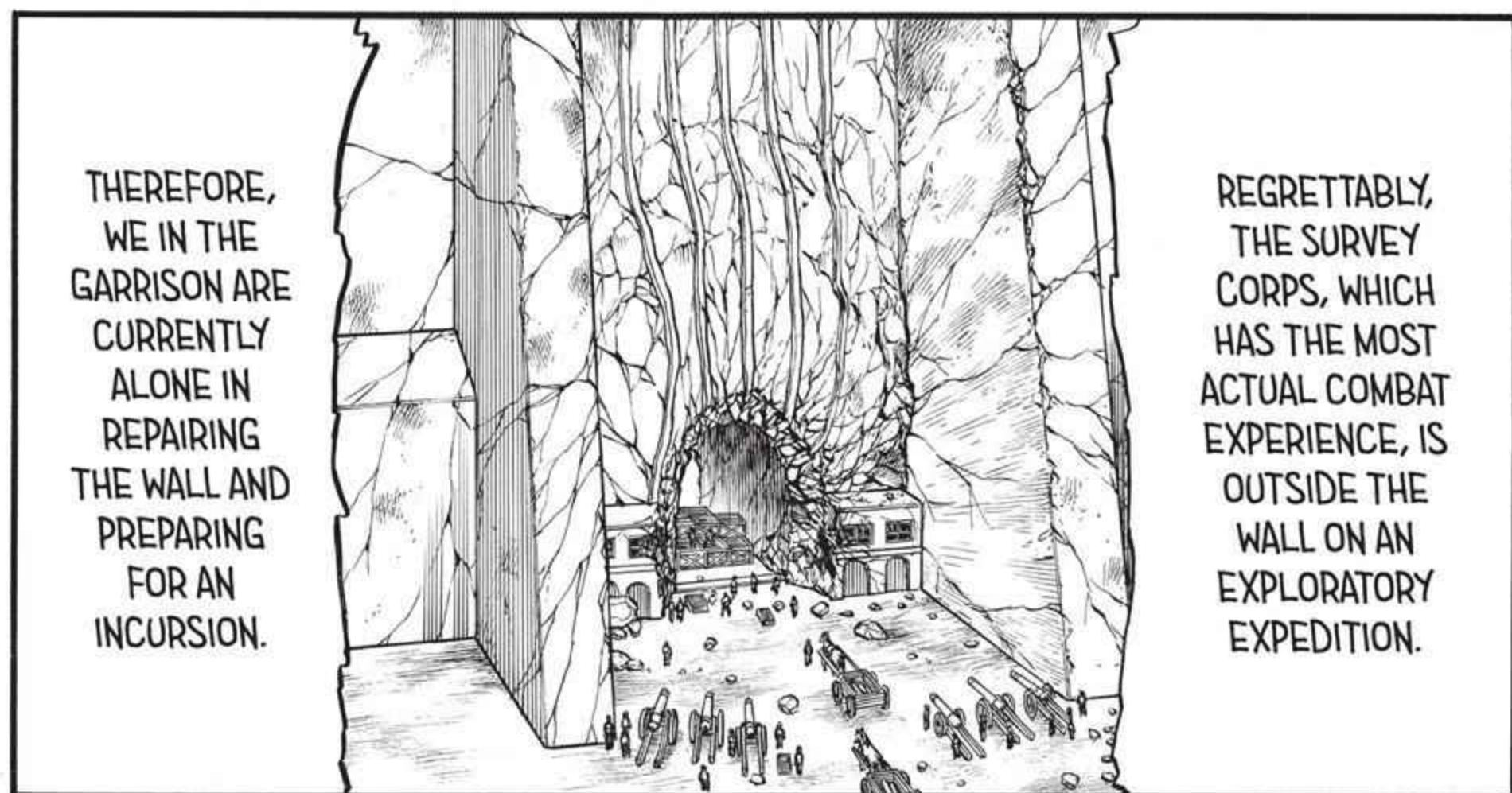
WHAT ARE
YOU
TRAINEES
DOING?!



IF IT
ISN'T
PLUGGED
UP FAST,
WE'LL GET
ANOTHER
TITAN
INCURSION
!!

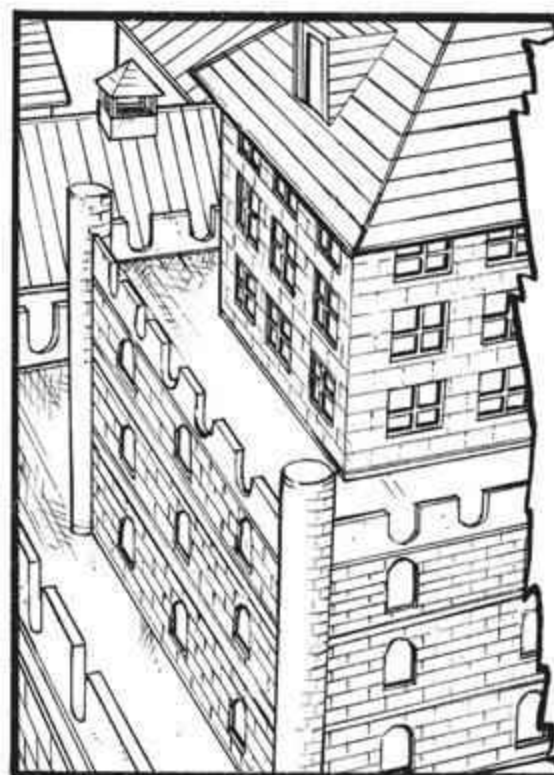
PART
OF THE
WALL'S
ALREADY
DE-
STROYED
!







THIS IS
YOUR FIRST
OPERATION,
BUT WE
EXPECT
YOU TO CONTRI-
BUTE!



YOU
TRAINEES
PASSED THE
GRADUATION
DRILLS!
YOU'RE
FIRST-CLASS
SOLDIERS
NOW!



FRANZ...

DON'T
WORRY,
HANNAH... I
SWEAR I'LL
PROTECT
YOU.



I-I'M FINE!
I'M SURE
THINGS WILL
SETTLE
DOWN SOON!



ARMIN,
ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?!

EREN!

THEY PUT
THAT ROCK
THERE TO
PLUG A HOLE,
BUT WE CAN'T
EVEN MOVE
IT!



S-STILL... THIS
ISN'T GOOD!
WE'VE STILL
GOT AN
EIGHT-METER
HIGH HOLE IN
THE WALL AND
NO WAY TO FIX
IT QUICKLY!



...IF THE
TITANS
FELT
LIKE IT...



...THEY
COULD
EXTER-
MINATE
THE HUMAN
RACE AT
ANY TIME!!



AND THE MOMENT
WE REALIZE WE
CAN'T FILL IN THE
HOLE, THIS TOWN
WILL BE
ABANDONED...
AFTER THAT, IT'S
ONLY A MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE
THEY GET
THROUGH WALL
ROSE... TO
BEGIN WITH...



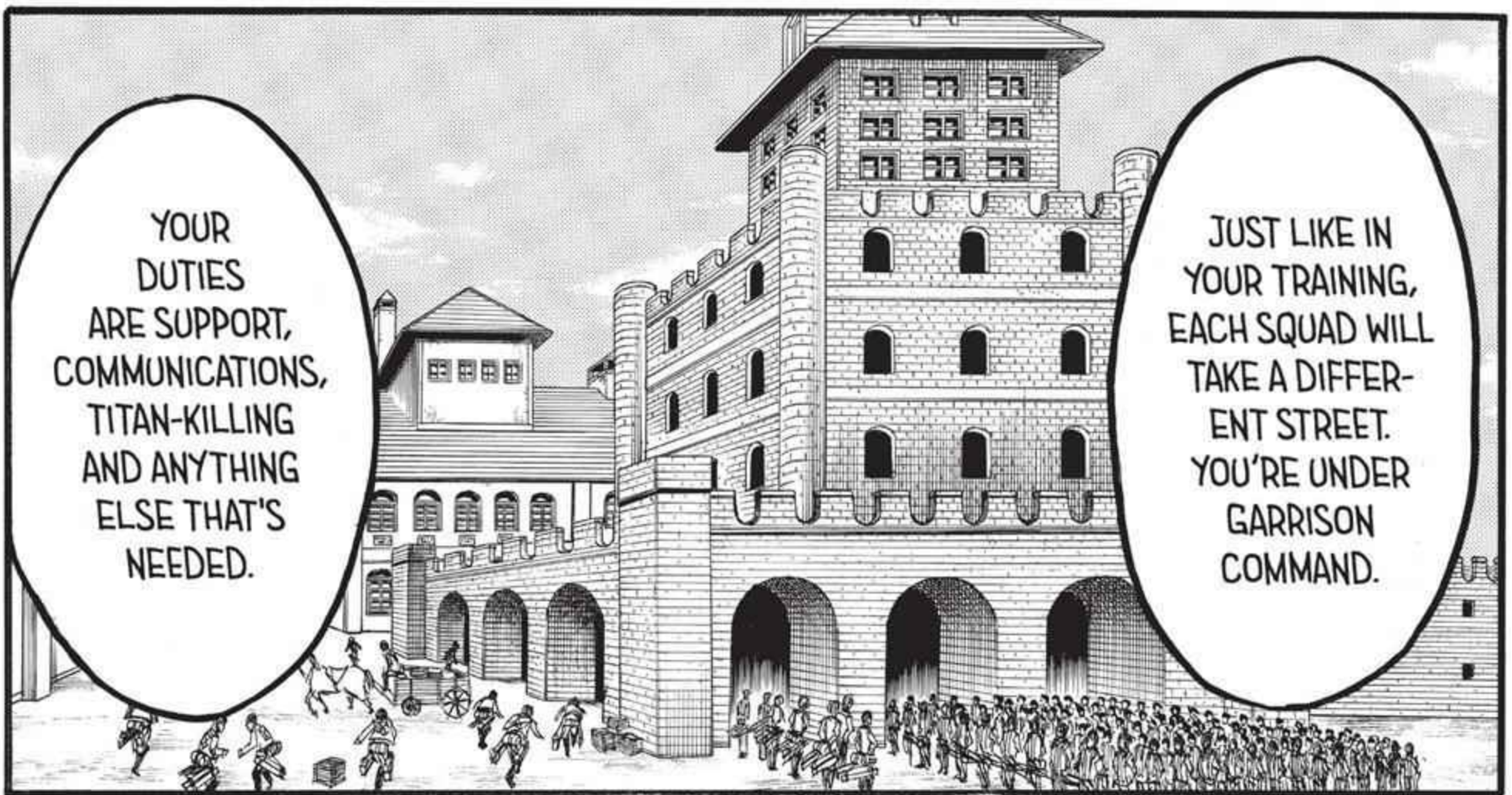
S-
SORRY.
I'M
FINE...



CALM
DOWN
!!

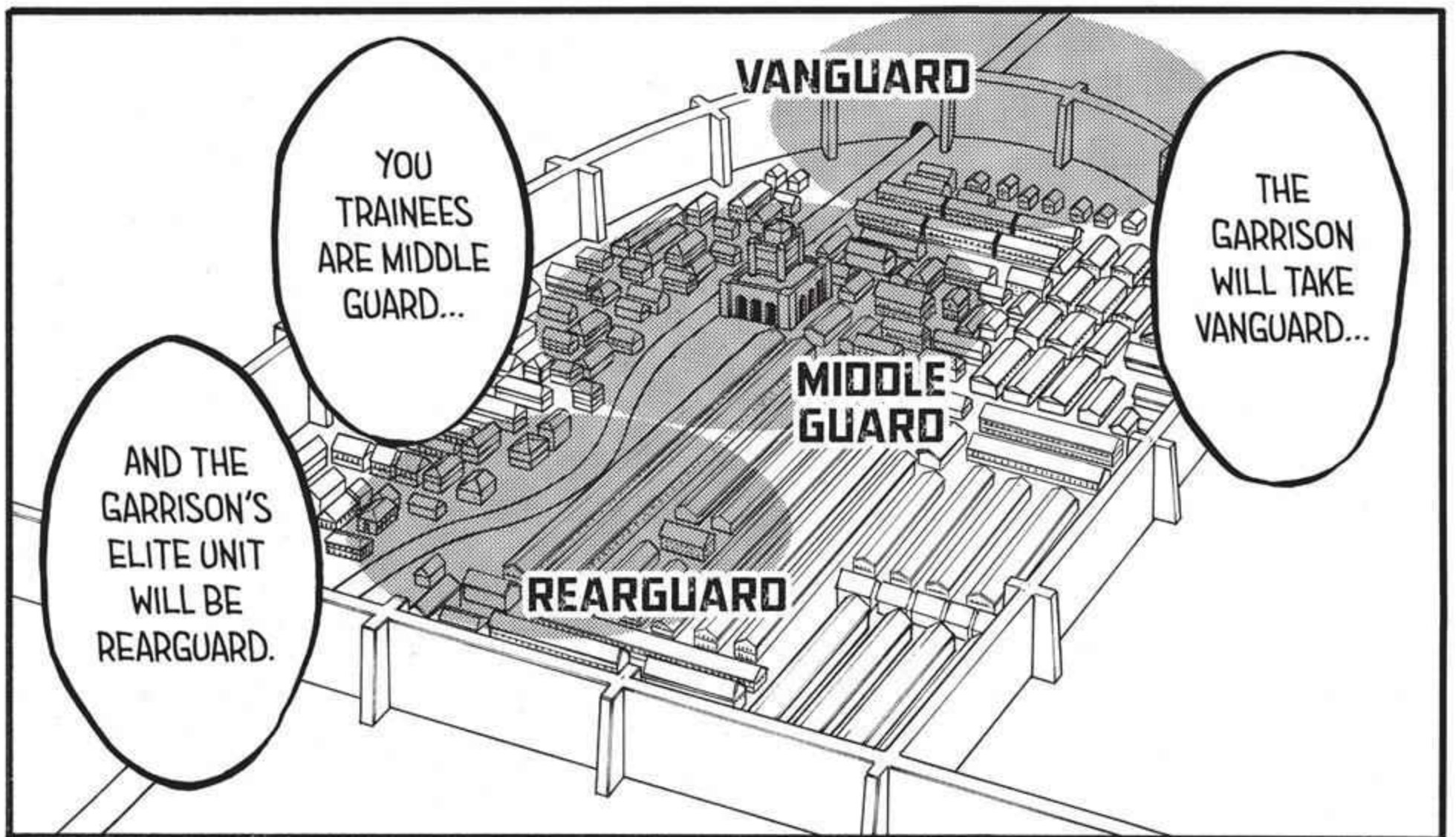
AH
!!

A
R
M
I
N
!!



YOUR
DUTIES
ARE SUPPORT,
COMMUNICATIONS,
TITAN-KILLING
AND ANYTHING
ELSE THAT'S
NEEDED.

JUST LIKE IN
YOUR TRAINING,
EACH SQUAD WILL
TAKE A DIFFER-
ENT STREET.
YOU'RE UNDER
GARRISON
COMMAND.



YOU
TRAINEES
ARE MIDDLE
GUARD...

THE
GARRISON
WILL TAKE
VANGUARD...

AND THE
GARRISON'S
ELITE UNIT
WILL BE
REARGUARD.

VANGUARD

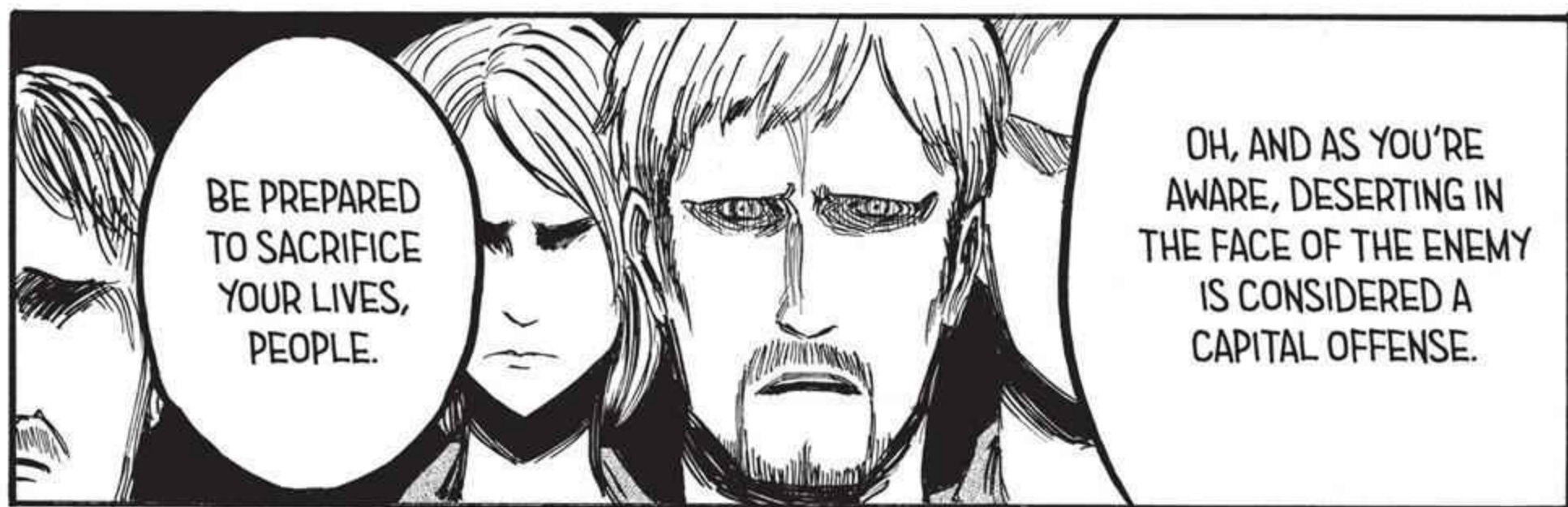
MIDDLE
GUARD

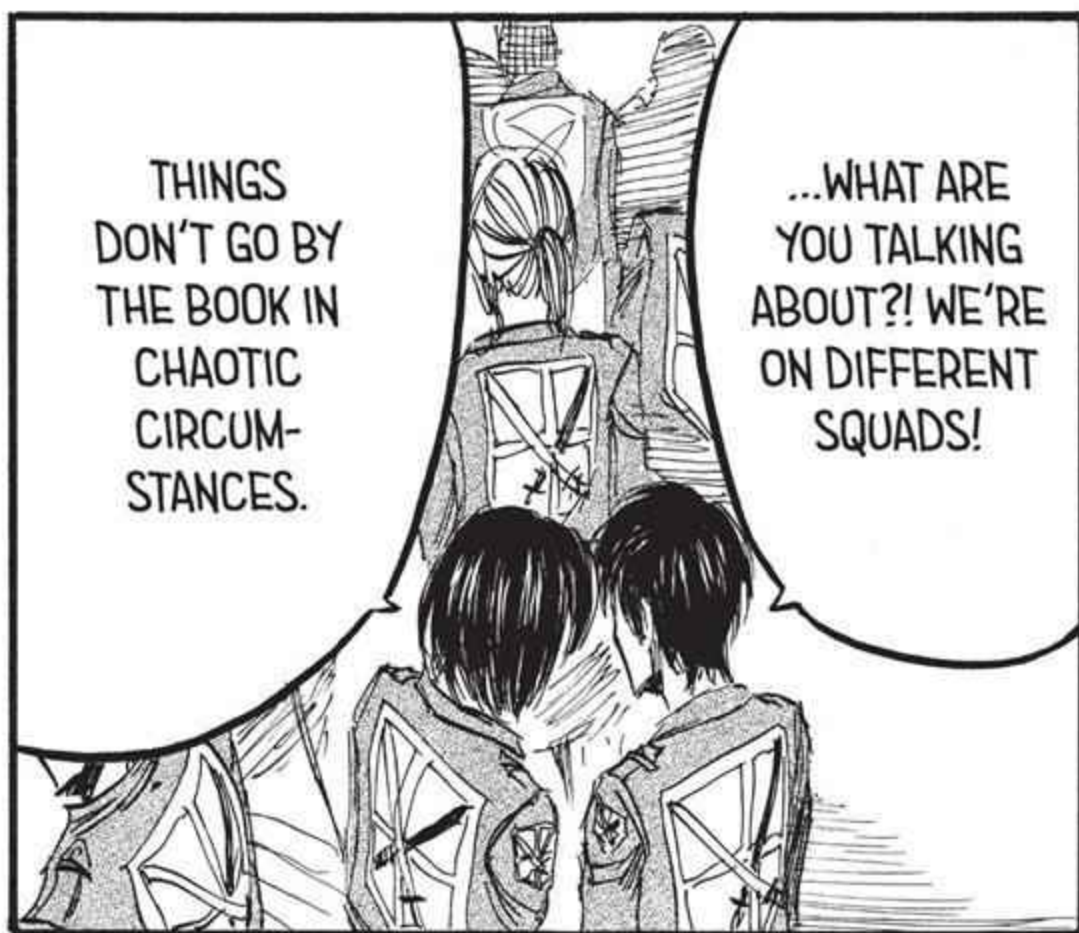
REARGUARD



...UNTIL
EVERY LAST MAN,
WOMAN AND CHILD
HAS SAFELY
EVACUATED.

TIME FOR US
FREELOADERS
TO PAY OUR TAB.
WE'VE GOTTA
DEFEND WALL
ROSE TO THE
DEATH...





THINGS
DON'T GO BY
THE BOOK IN
CHAOTIC
CIRCUM-
STANCES.

...WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?! WE'RE
ON DIFFERENT
SQUADS!



HUH?!

IF THE
BATTLE
GETS
HAIRY,
FIND ME.



TRAINEE
MIKASA!!

WHAT
IS THIS
"PRO-
TEC-
TION"
STUFF
ABOUT
...?!



I'LL
PROTECT
YOU!

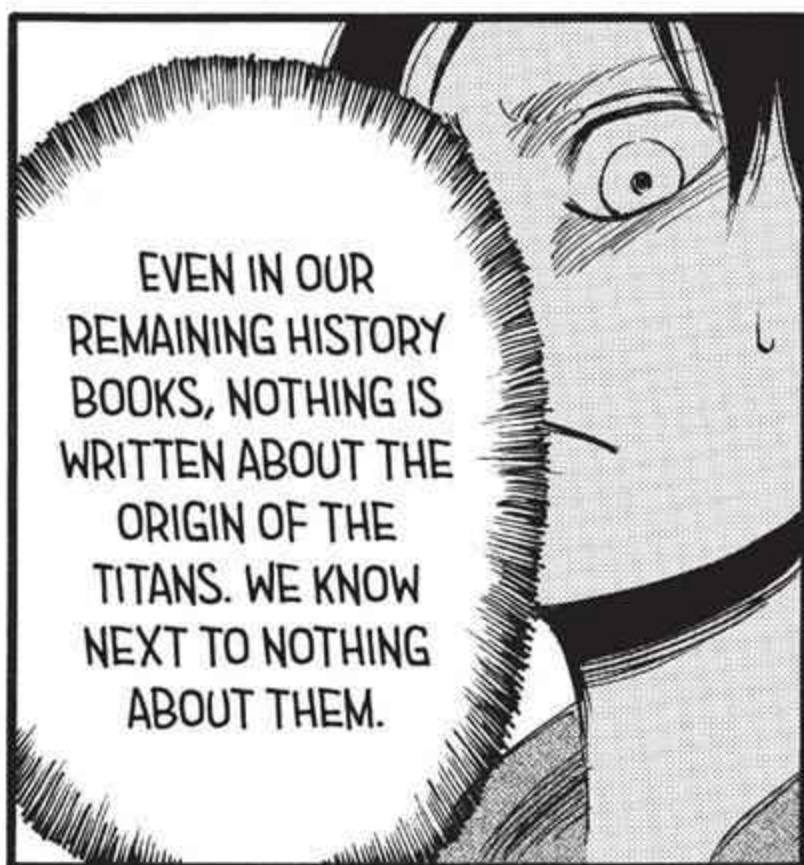
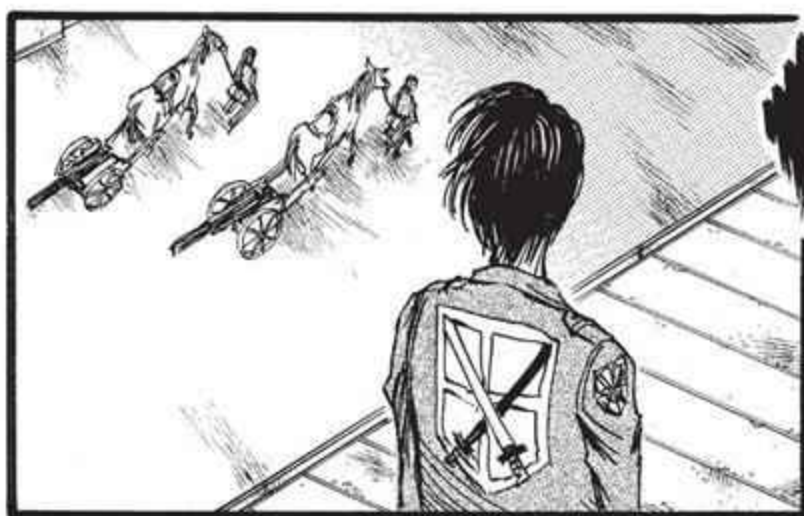


GET ON
OVER
THERE!!



YOU'VE
BEEN
SPECIALLY
ASSIGNED
TO REAR-
GUARD!

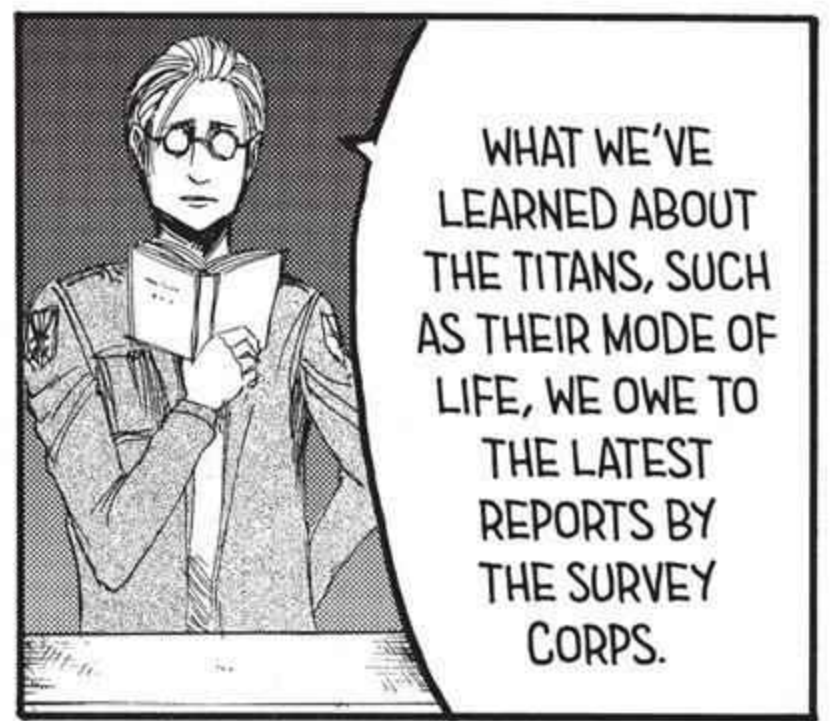




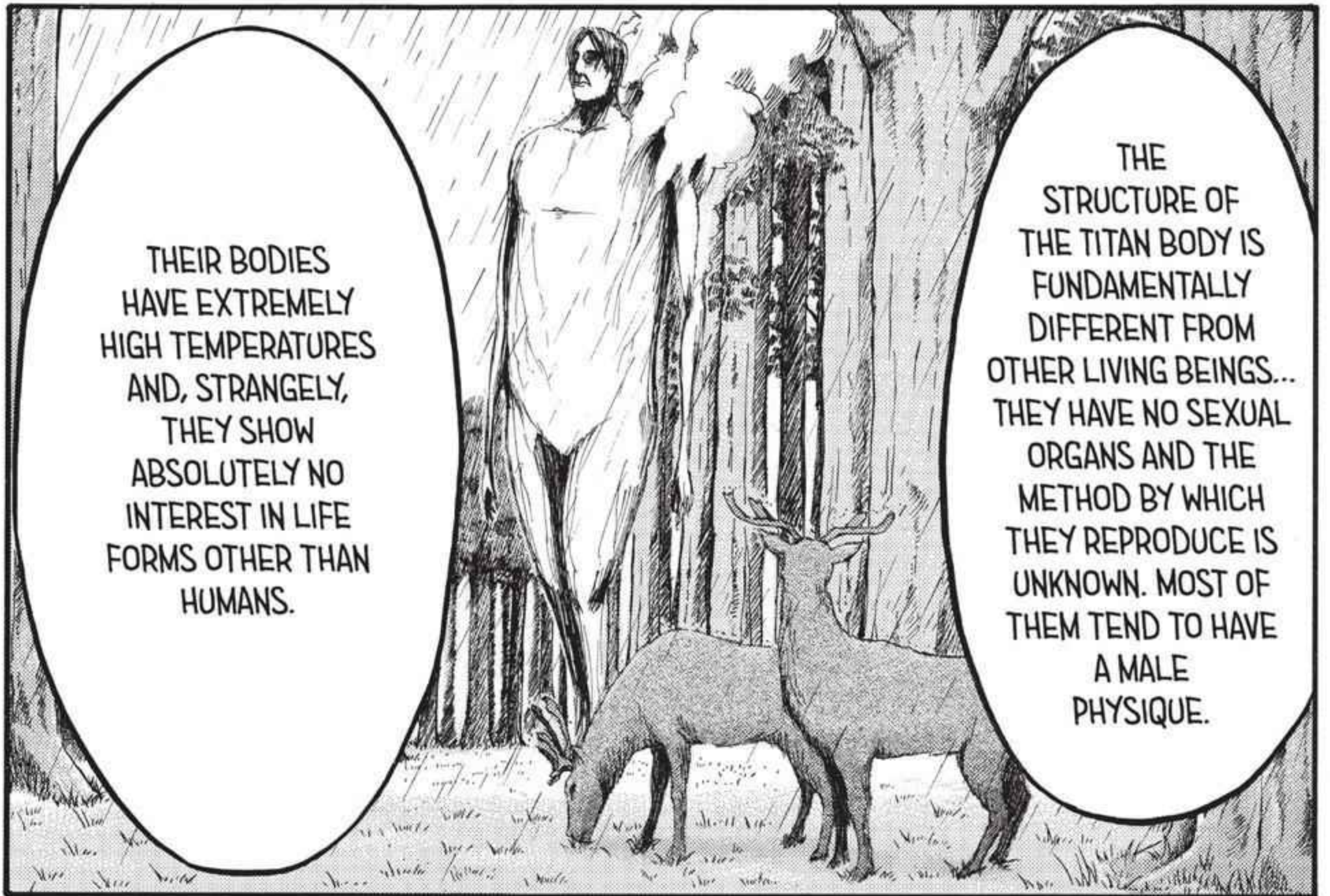


THEREFORE,
THERE IS NO
PRECEDENT
FOR MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN OUR
RACES.

WE
HAVEN'T
BEEN ABLE
TO CONFIRM
WHETHER
THE TITANS
POSSESS
HUMANLIKE
INTELLI-
GENCE.

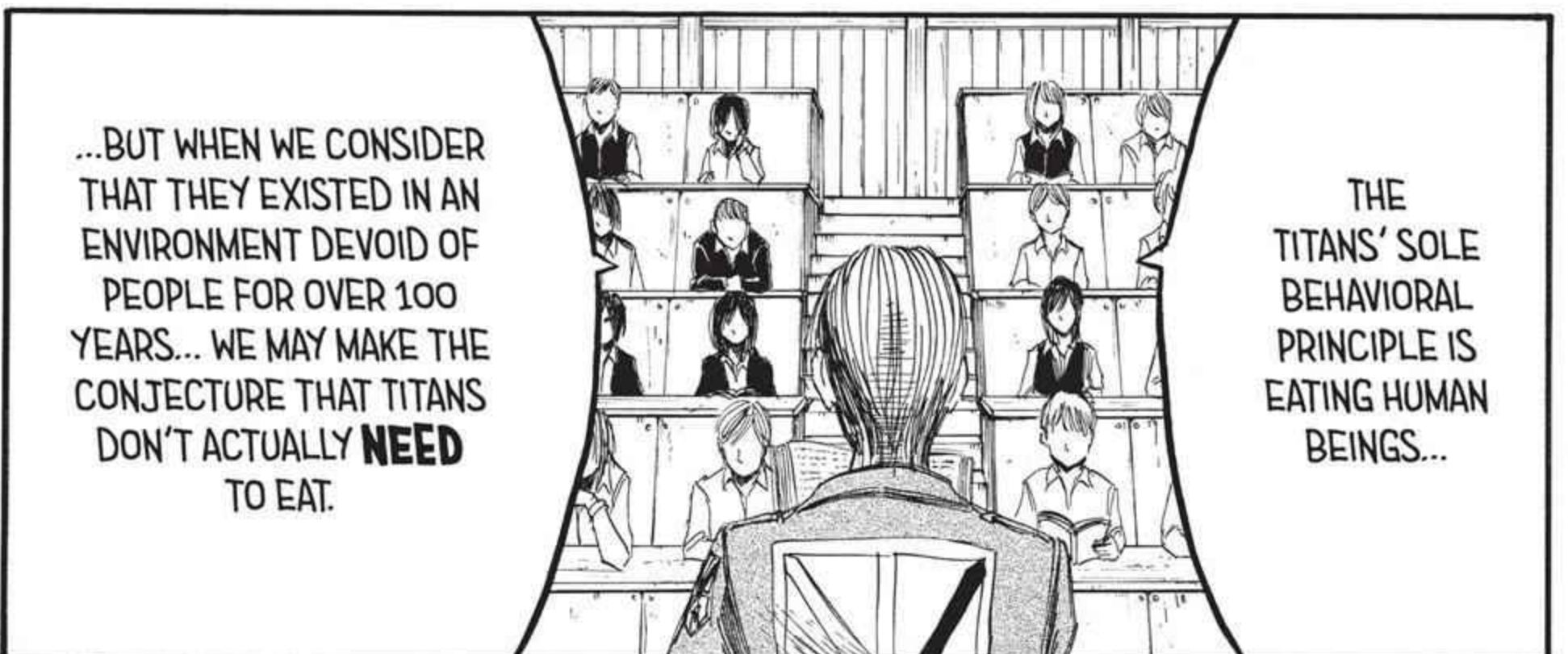


WHAT WE'VE
LEARNED ABOUT
THE TITANS, SUCH
AS THEIR MODE OF
LIFE, WE OWE TO
THE LATEST
REPORTS BY
THE SURVEY
CORPS.



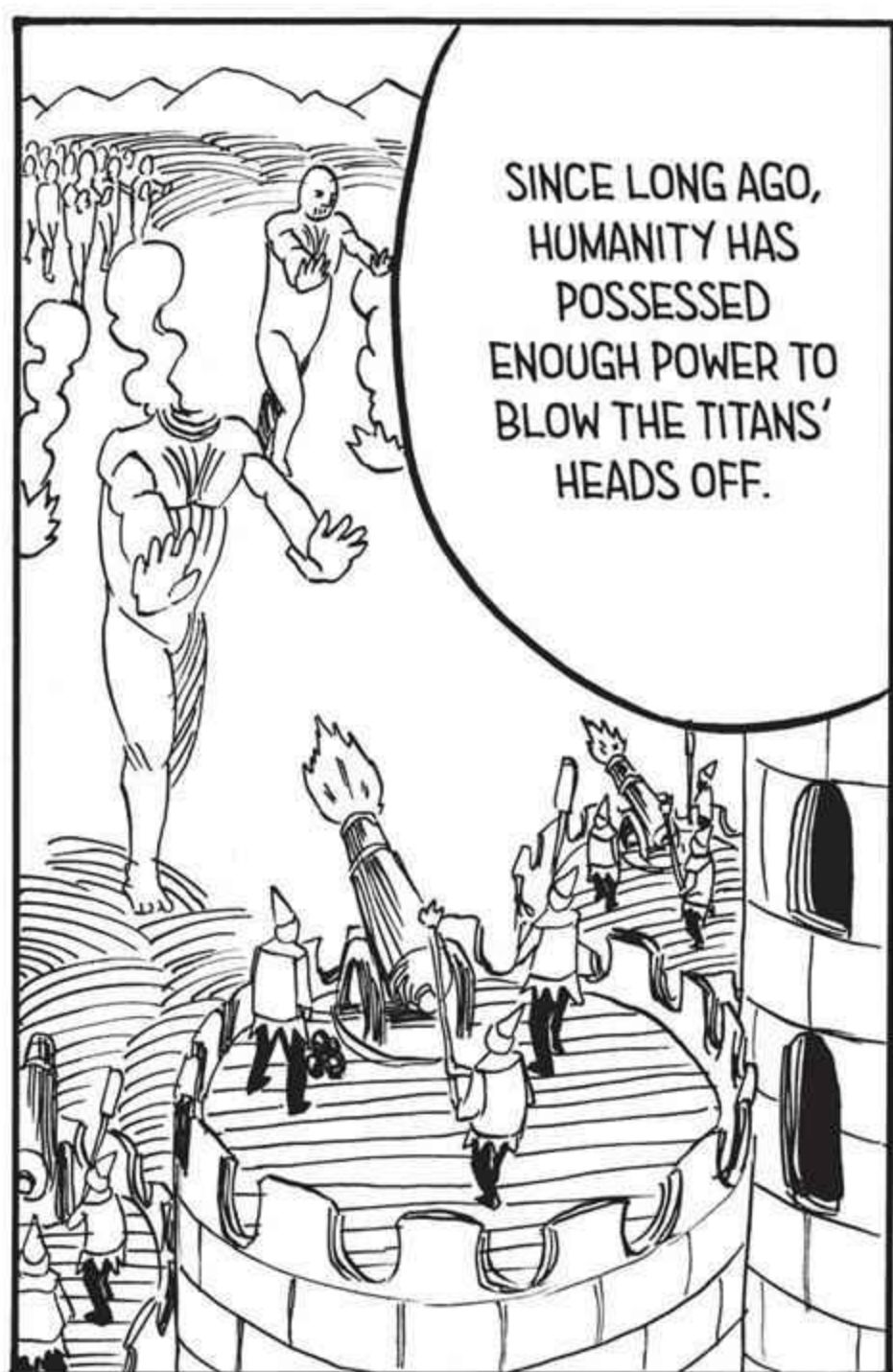
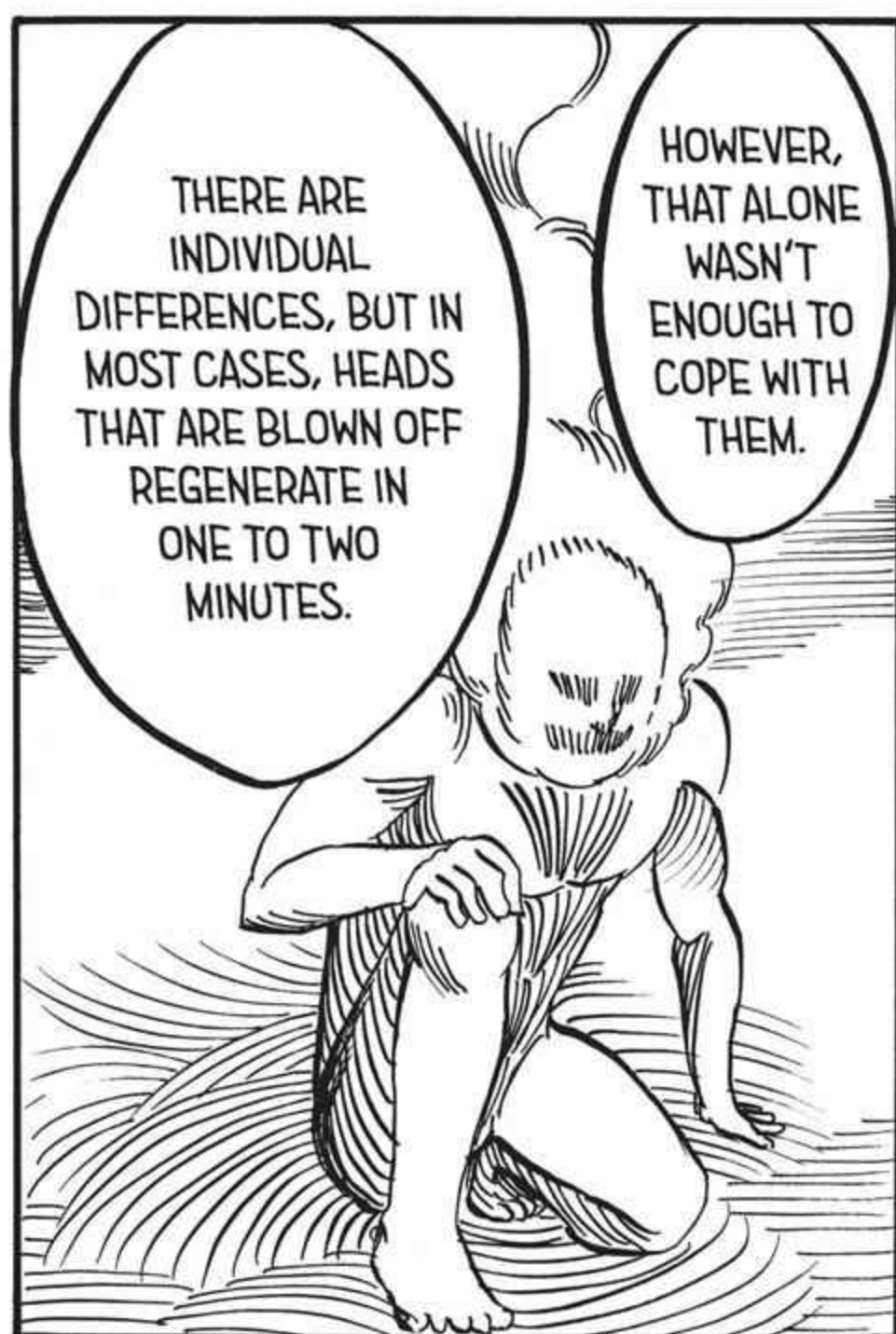
THEIR BODIES
HAVE EXTREMELY
HIGH TEMPERATURES
AND, STRANGELY,
THEY SHOW
ABSOLUTELY NO
INTEREST IN LIFE
FORMS OTHER THAN
HUMANS.

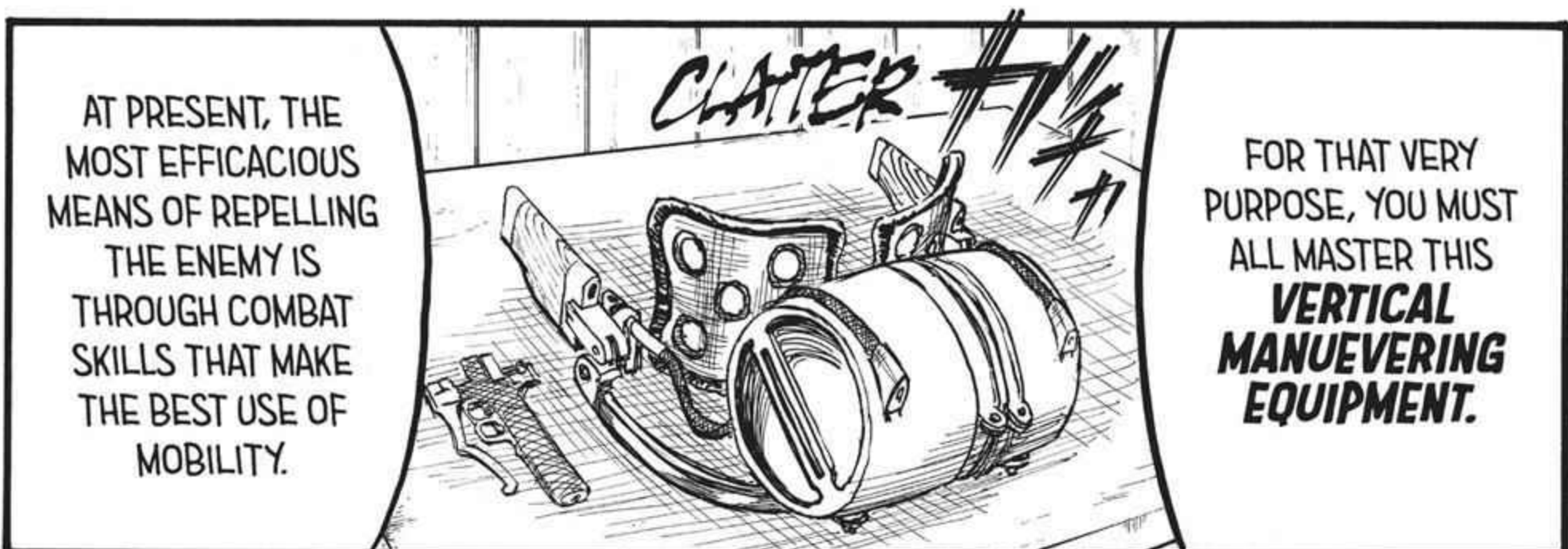
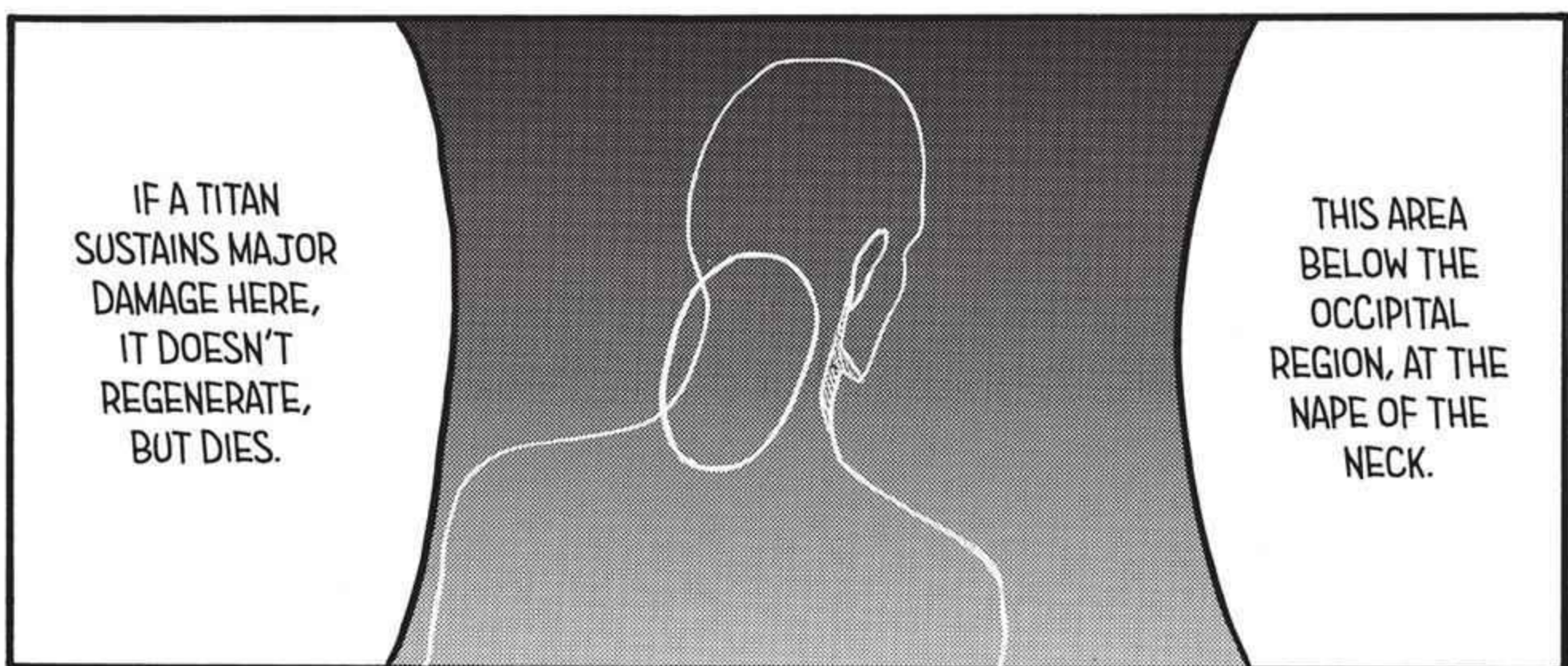
THE
STRUCTURE OF
THE TITAN BODY IS
FUNDAMENTALLY
DIFFERENT FROM
OTHER LIVING BEINGS...
THEY HAVE NO SEXUAL
ORGANS AND THE
METHOD BY WHICH
THEY REPRODUCE IS
UNKNOWN. MOST OF
THEM TEND TO HAVE
A MALE
PHYSIQUE.

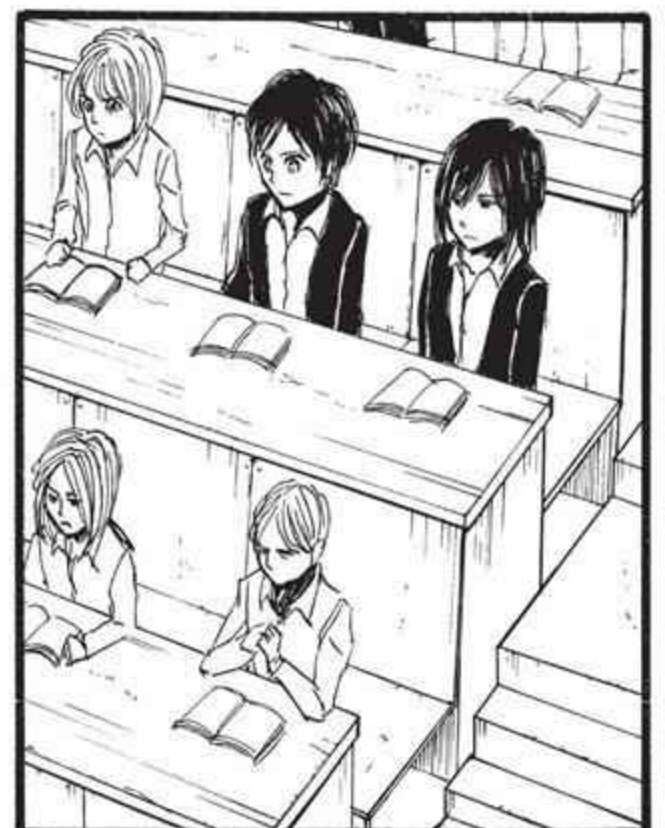
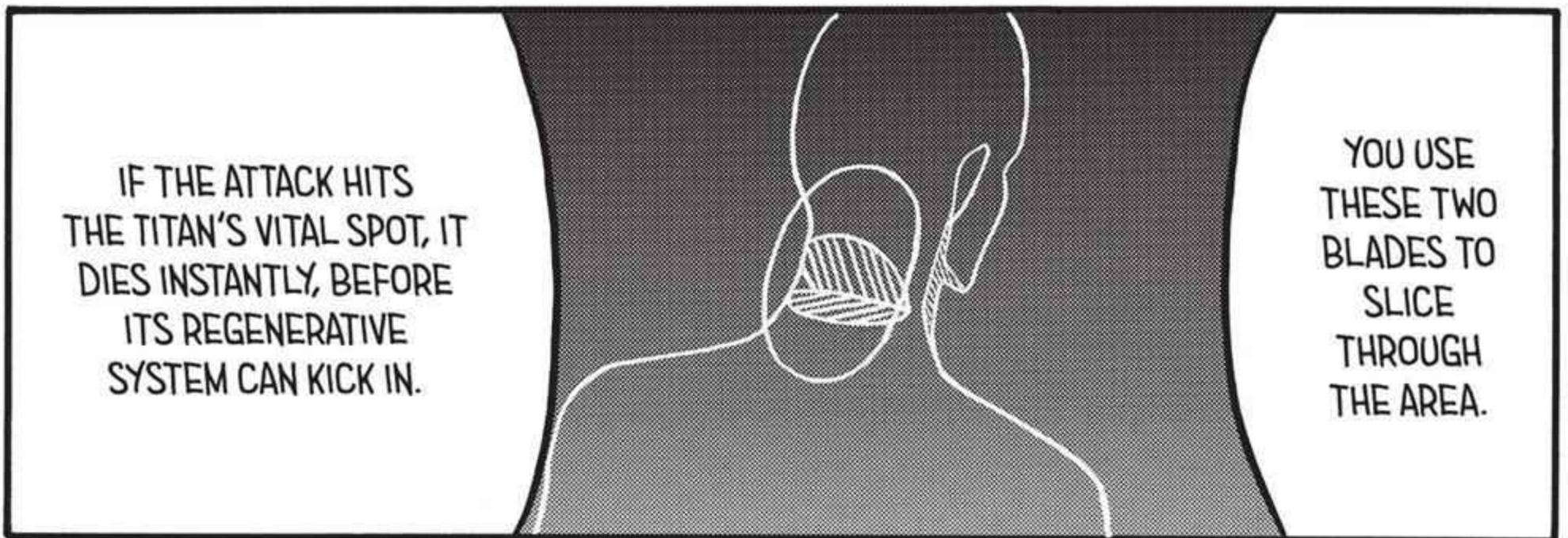
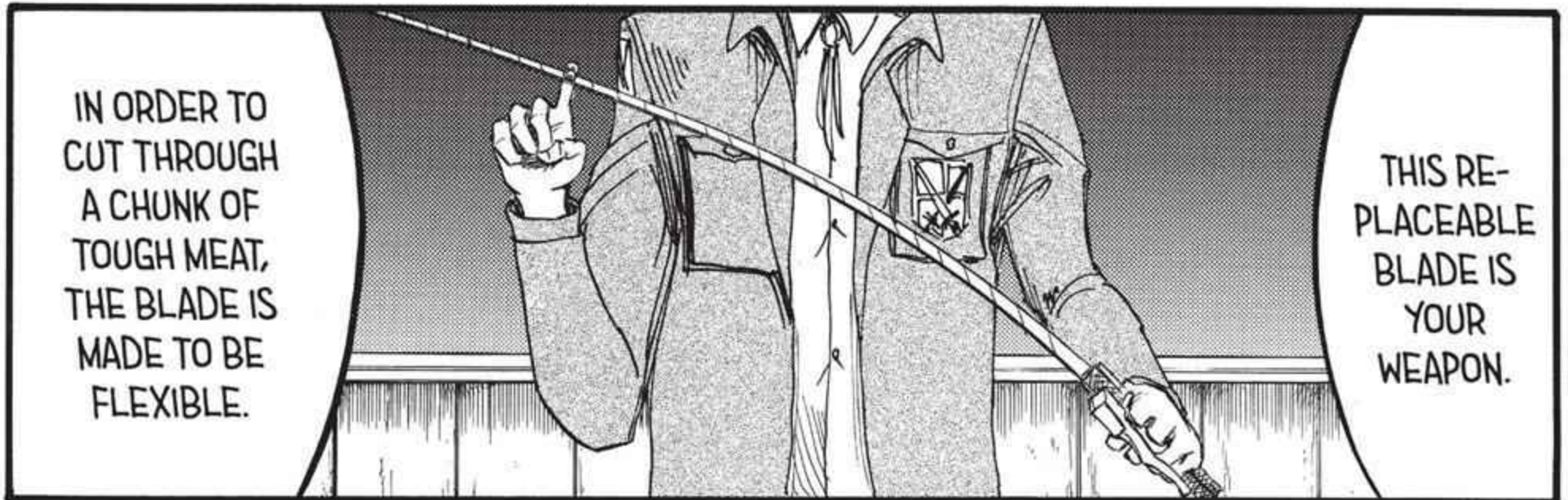
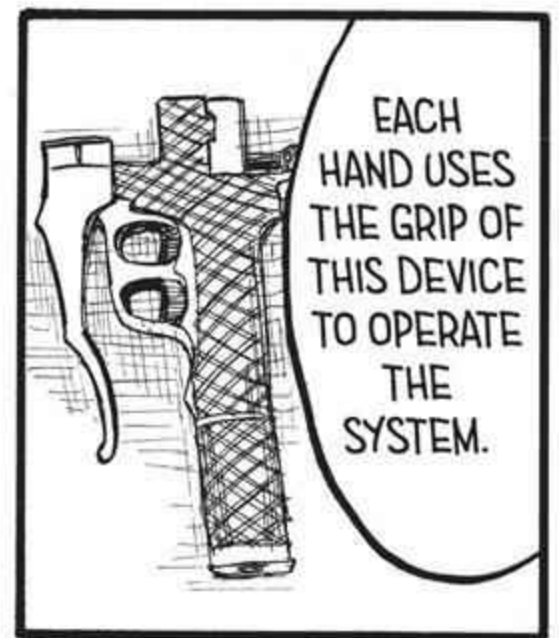
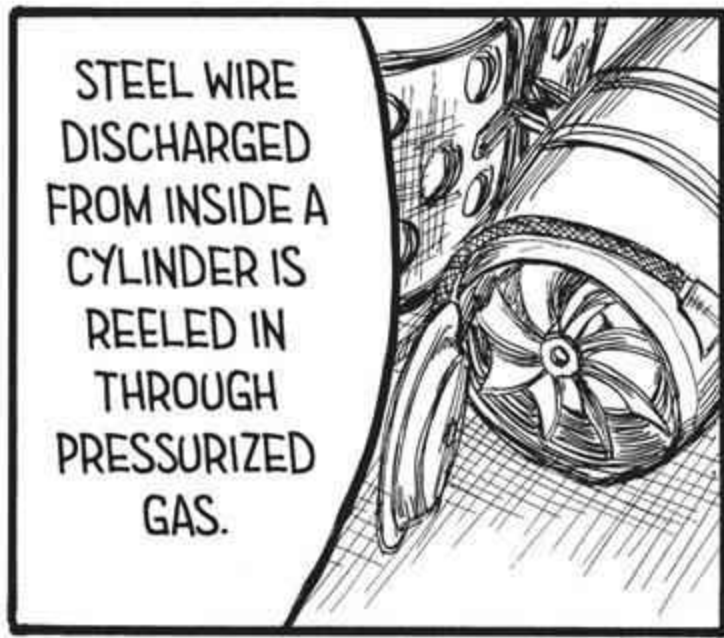


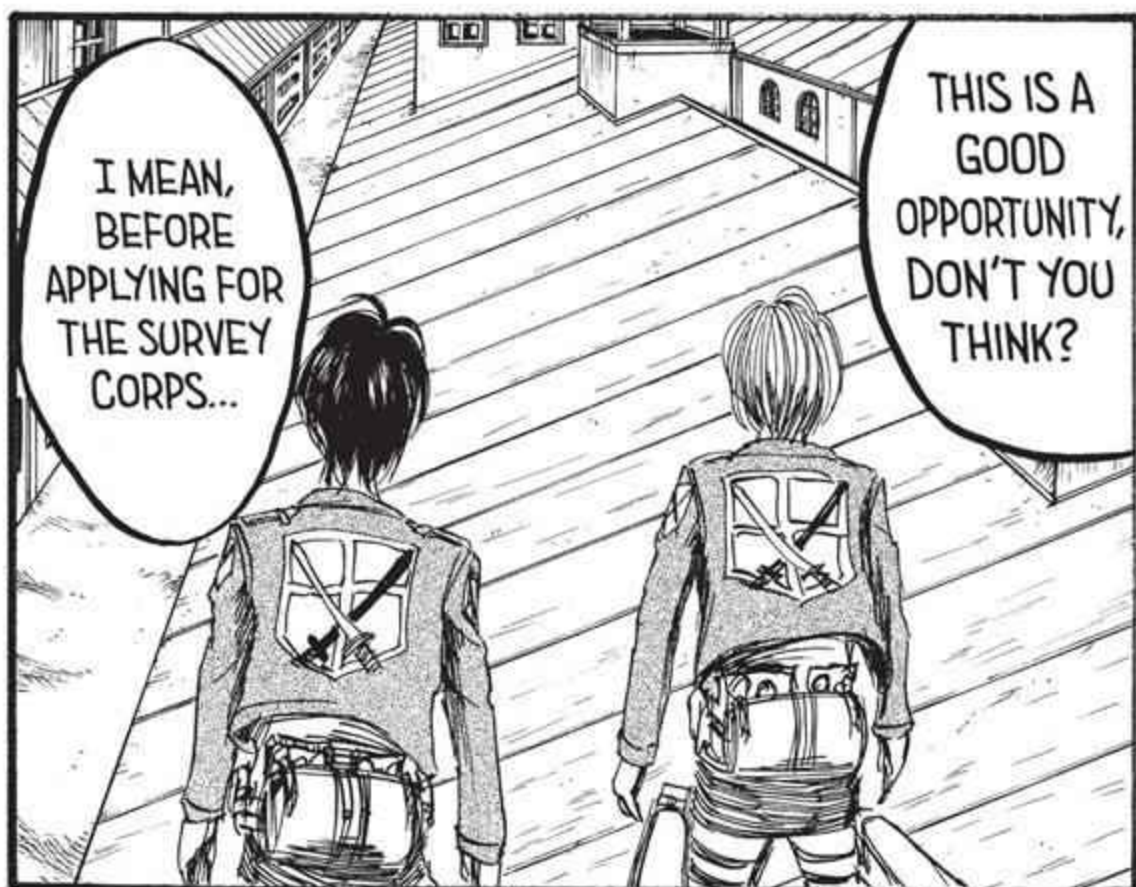
...BUT WHEN WE CONSIDER
THAT THEY EXISTED IN AN
ENVIRONMENT DEVOID OF
PEOPLE FOR OVER 100
YEARS... WE MAY MAKE THE
CONJECTURE THAT TITANS
DON'T ACTUALLY **NEED**
TO EAT.

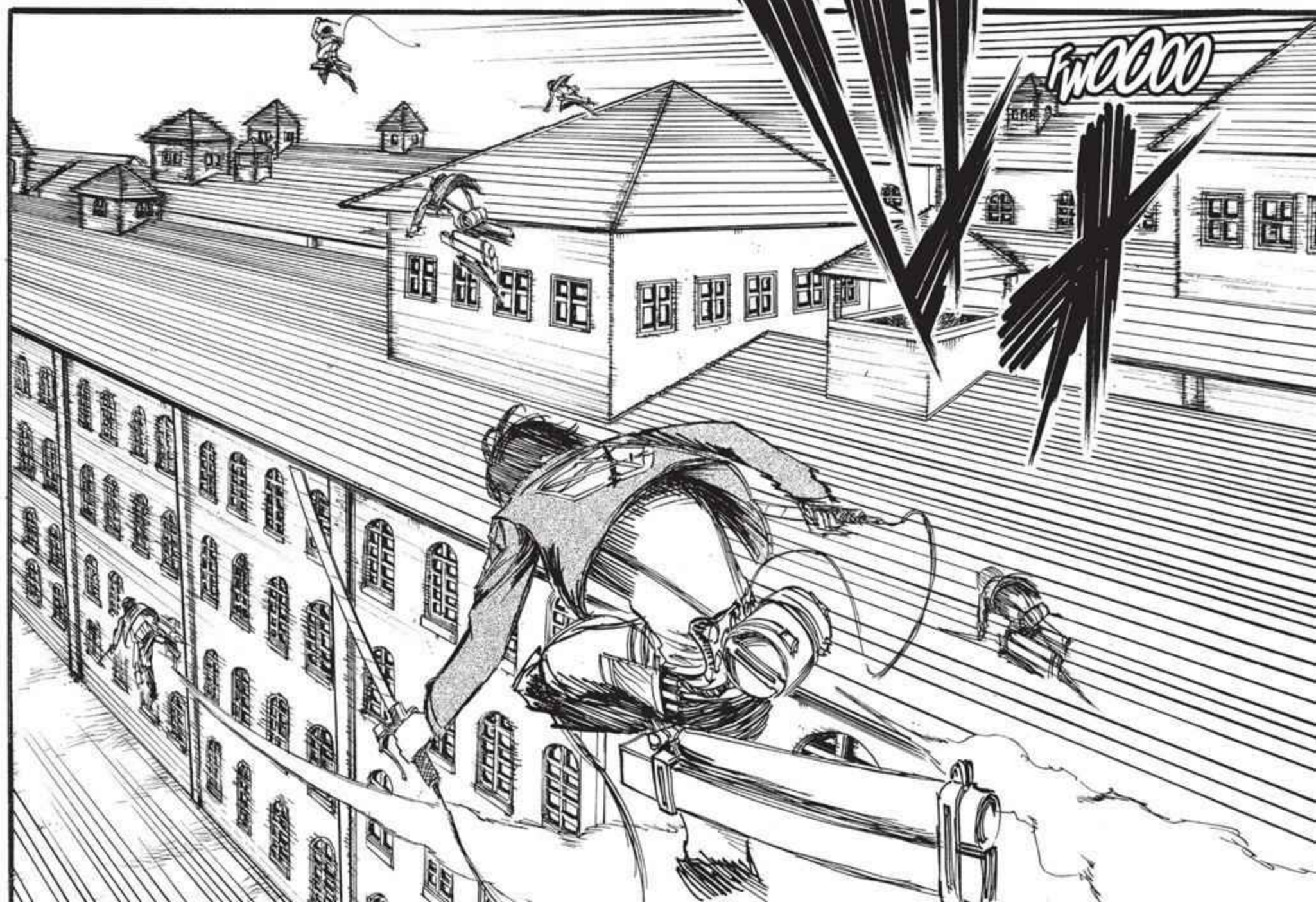
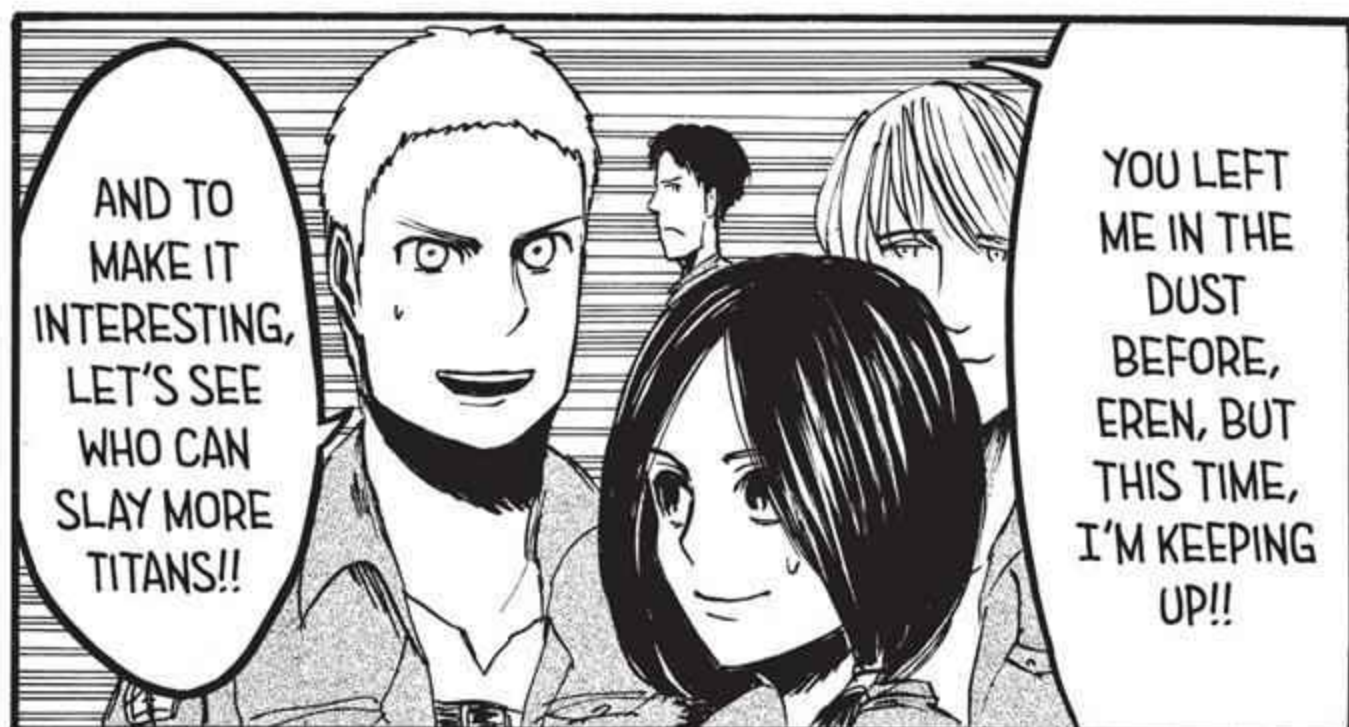
THE
TITANS' SOLE
BEHAVIORAL
PRINCIPLE IS
EATING HUMAN
BEINGS...

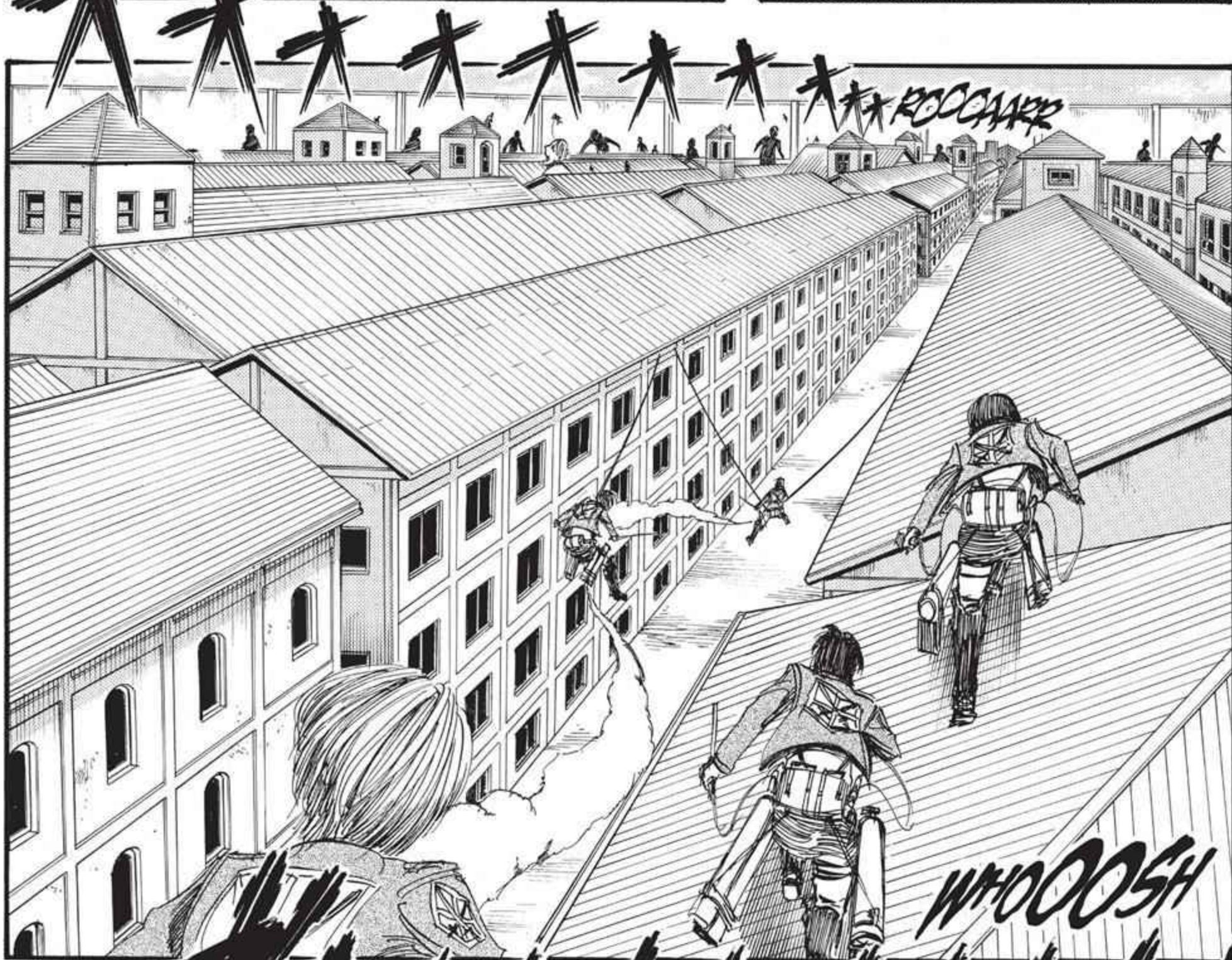


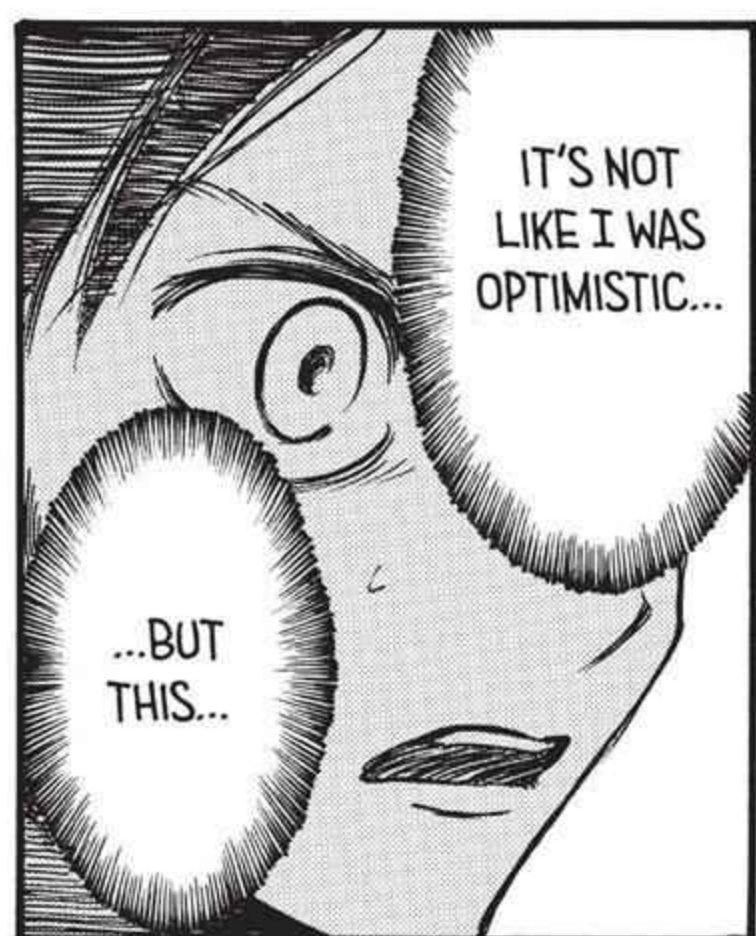
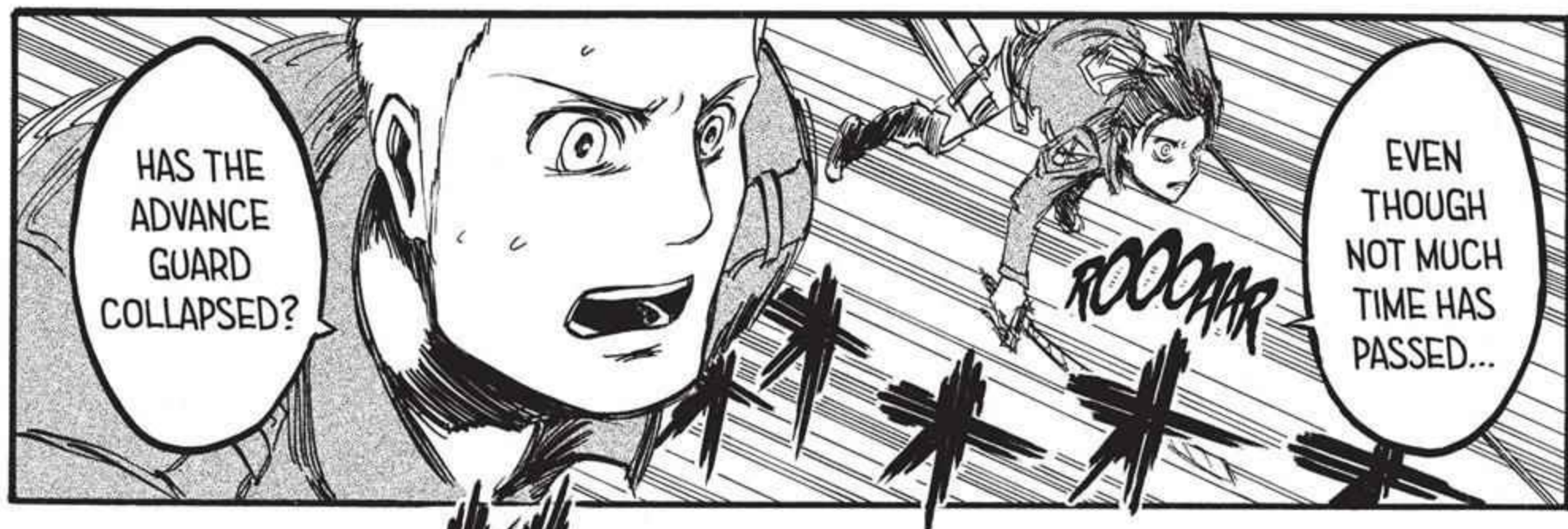


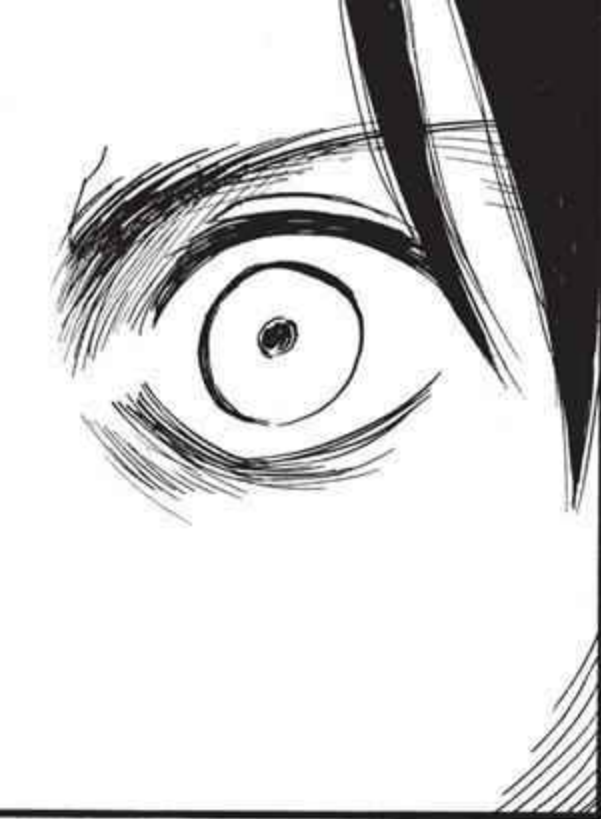


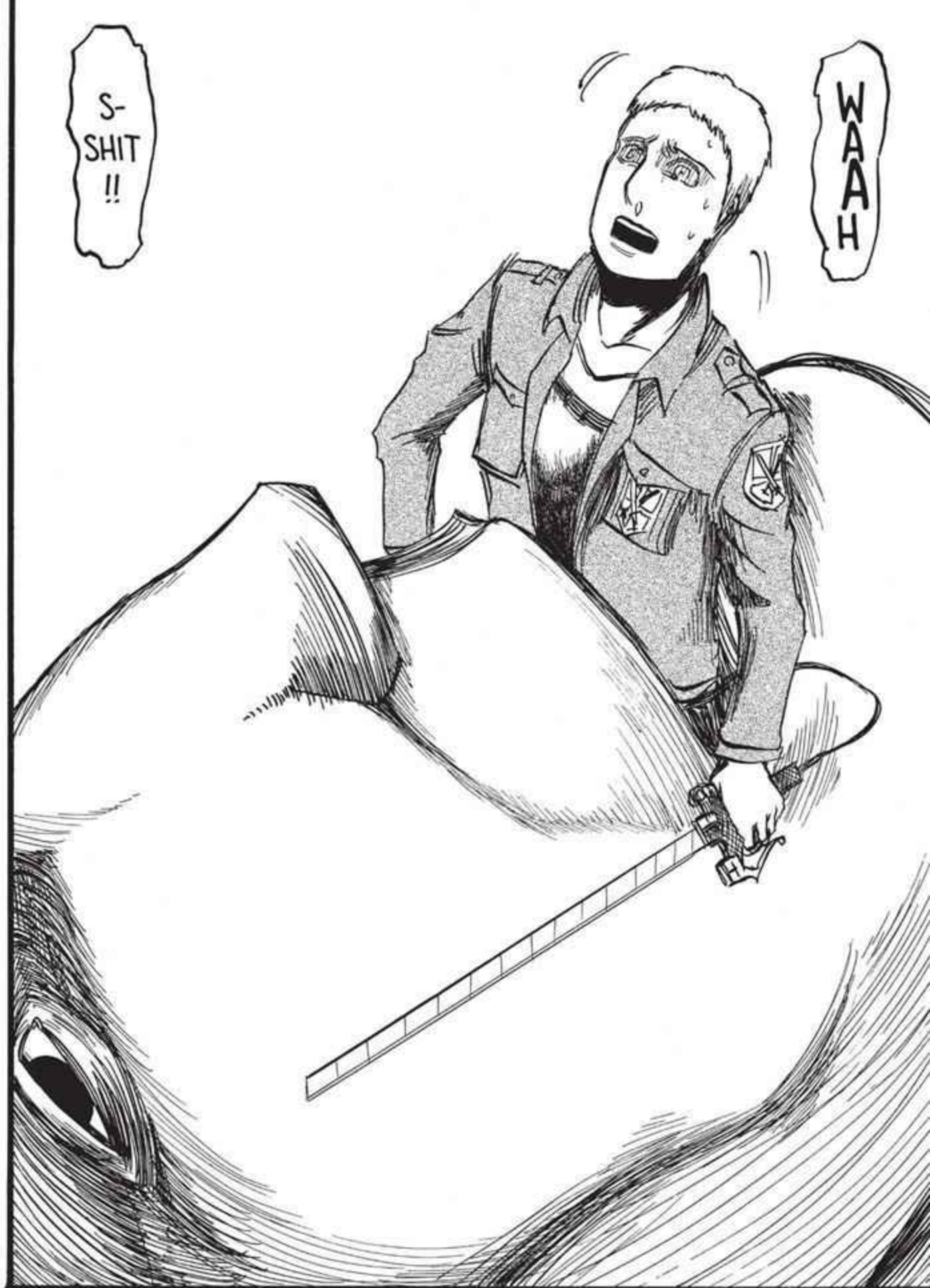












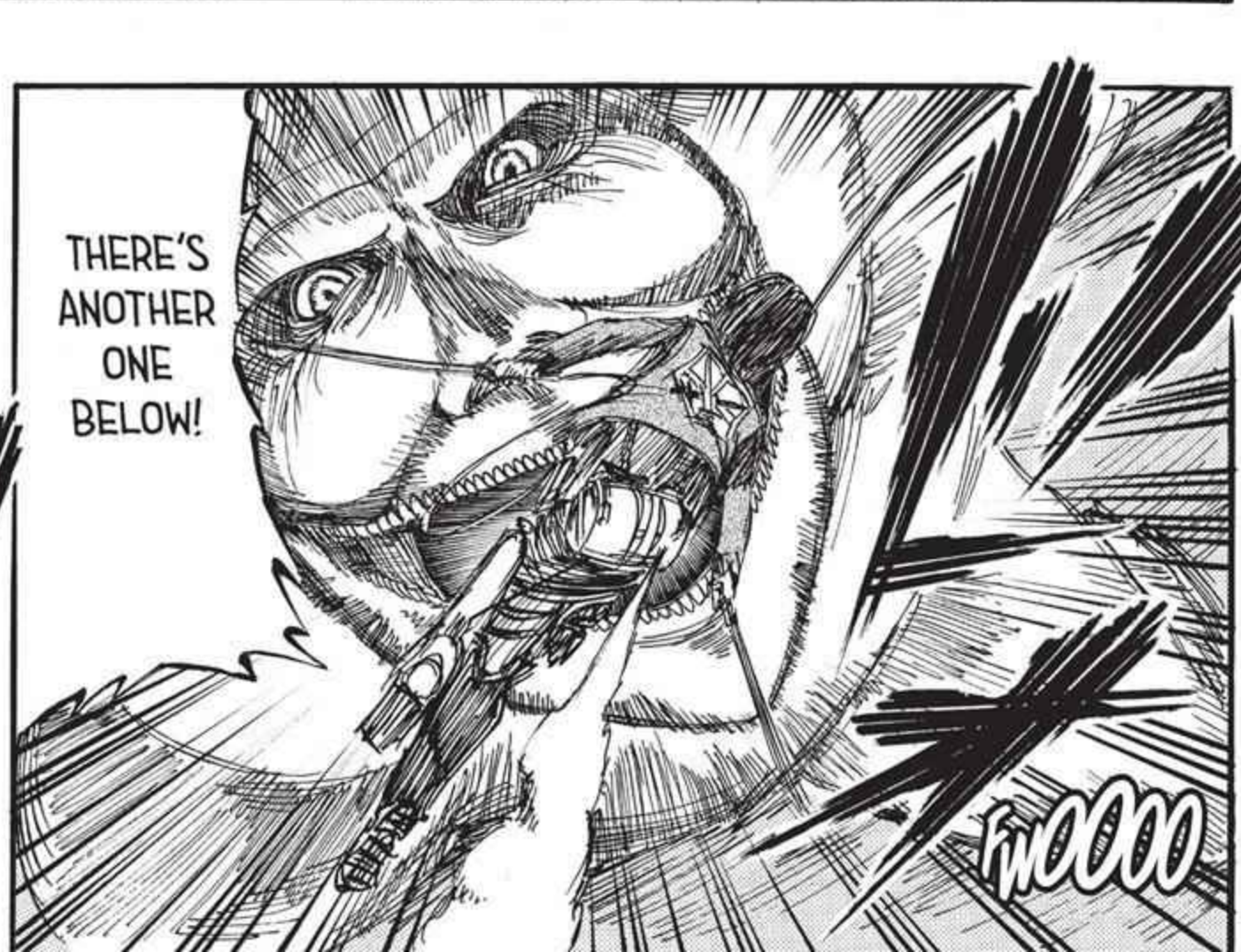
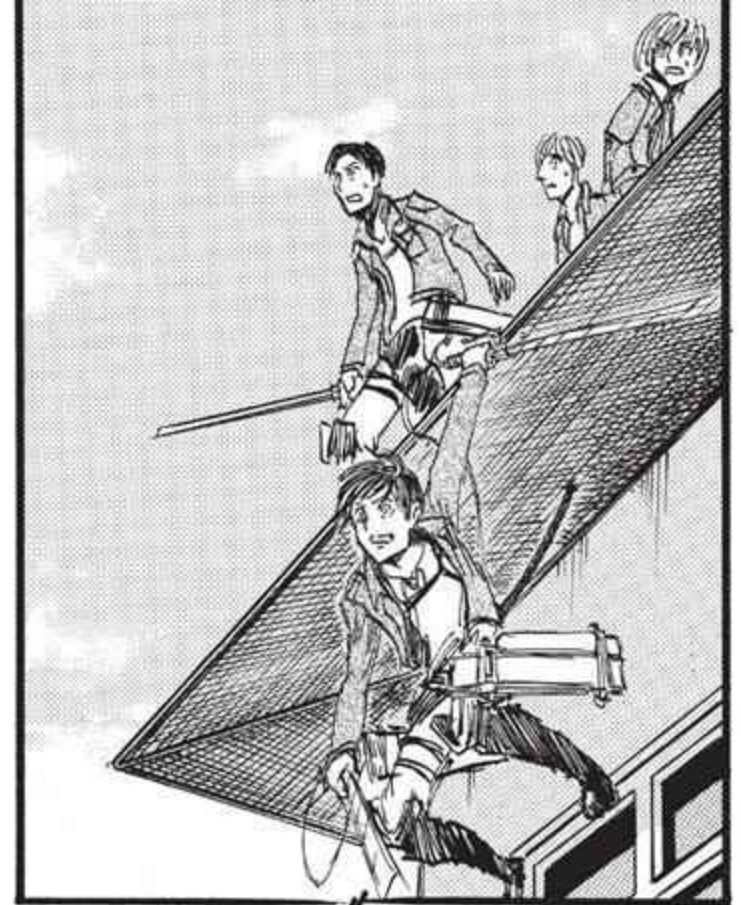
S-SHIT !!

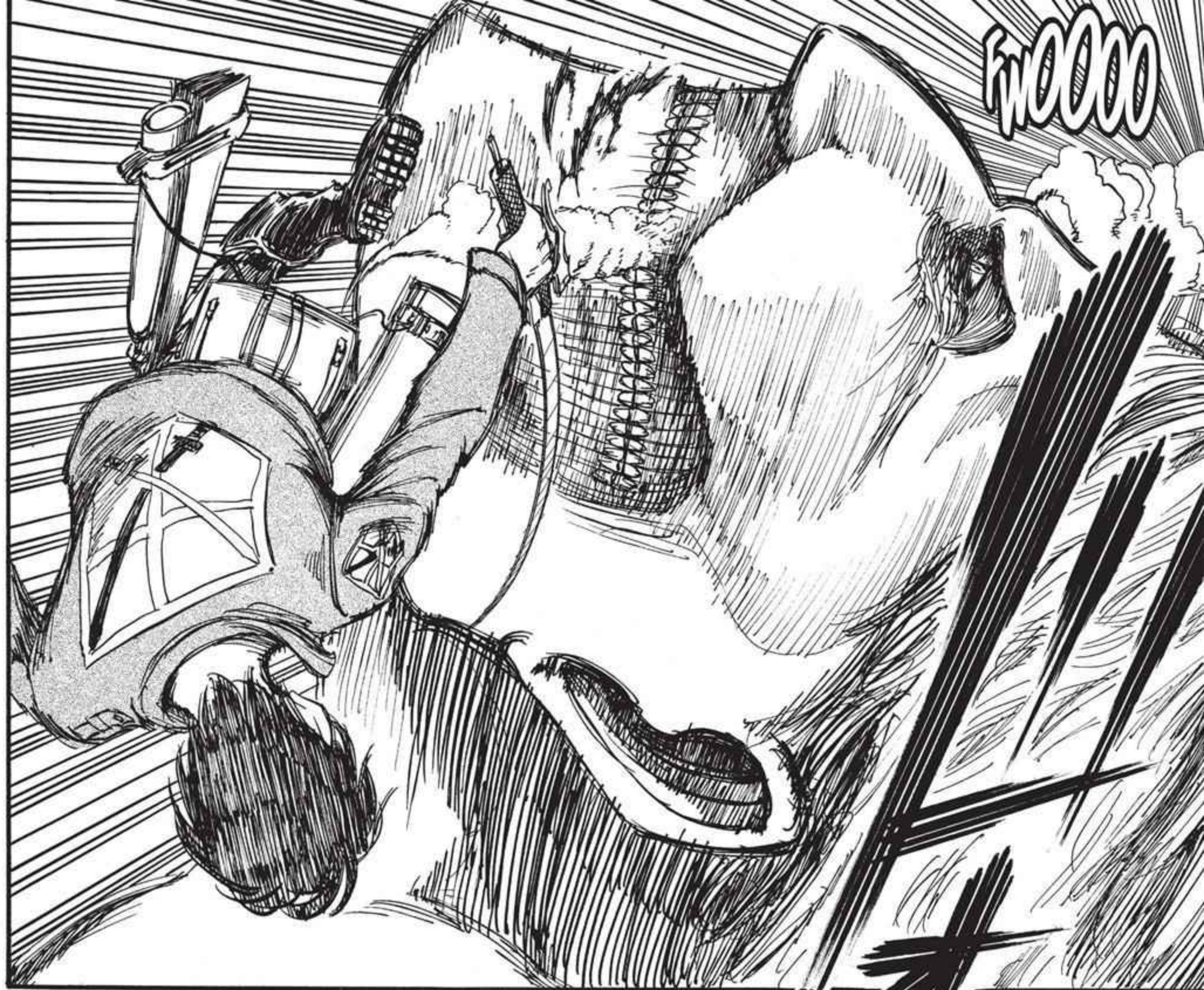
WAAH

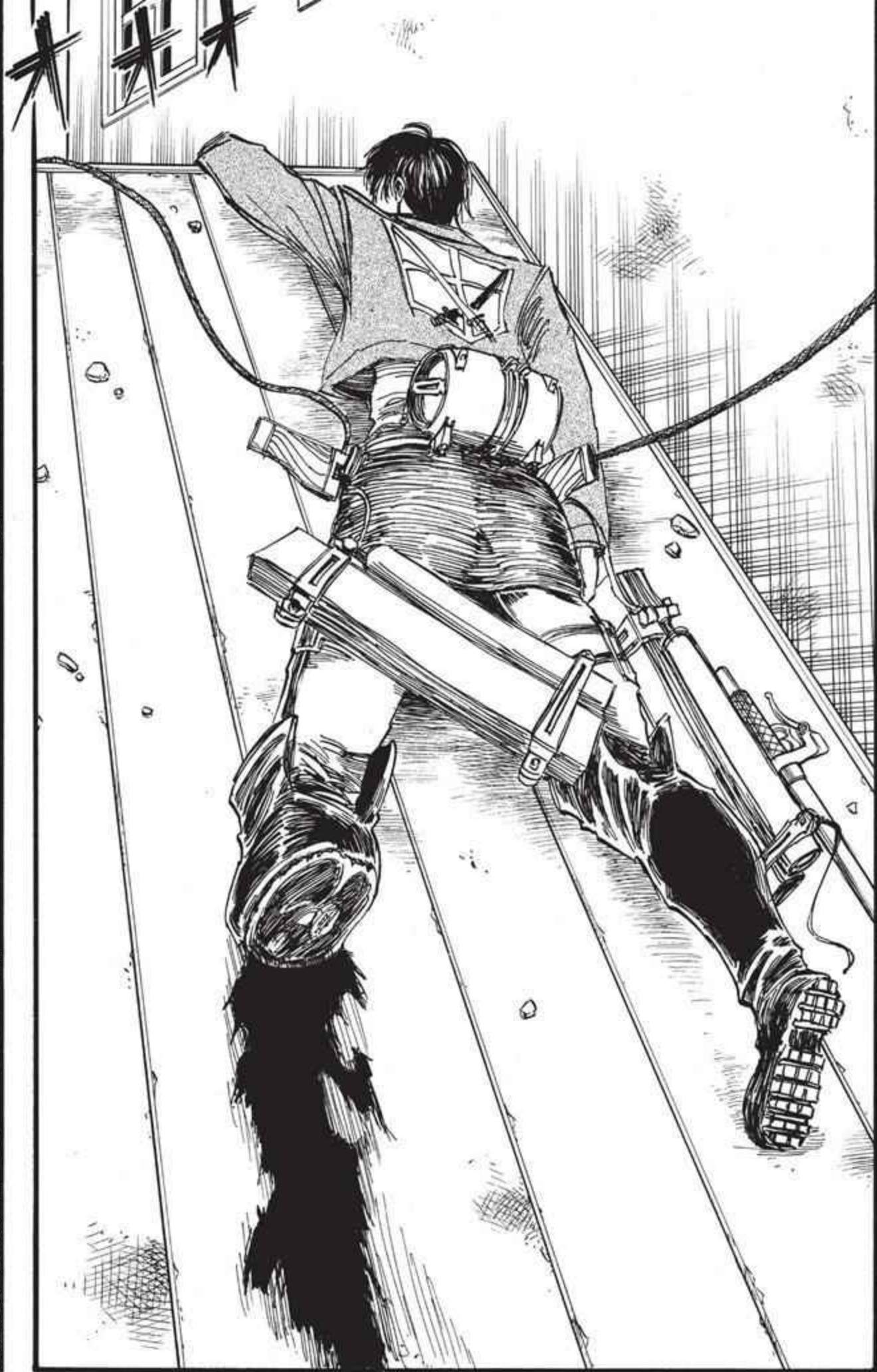
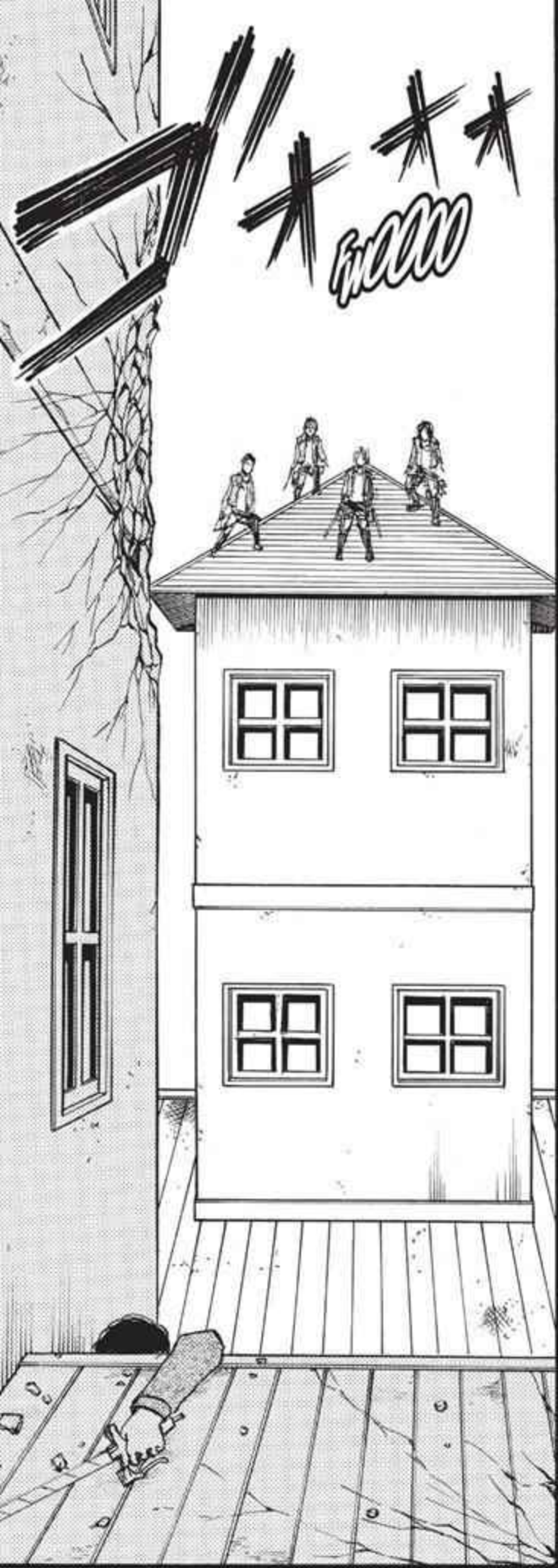


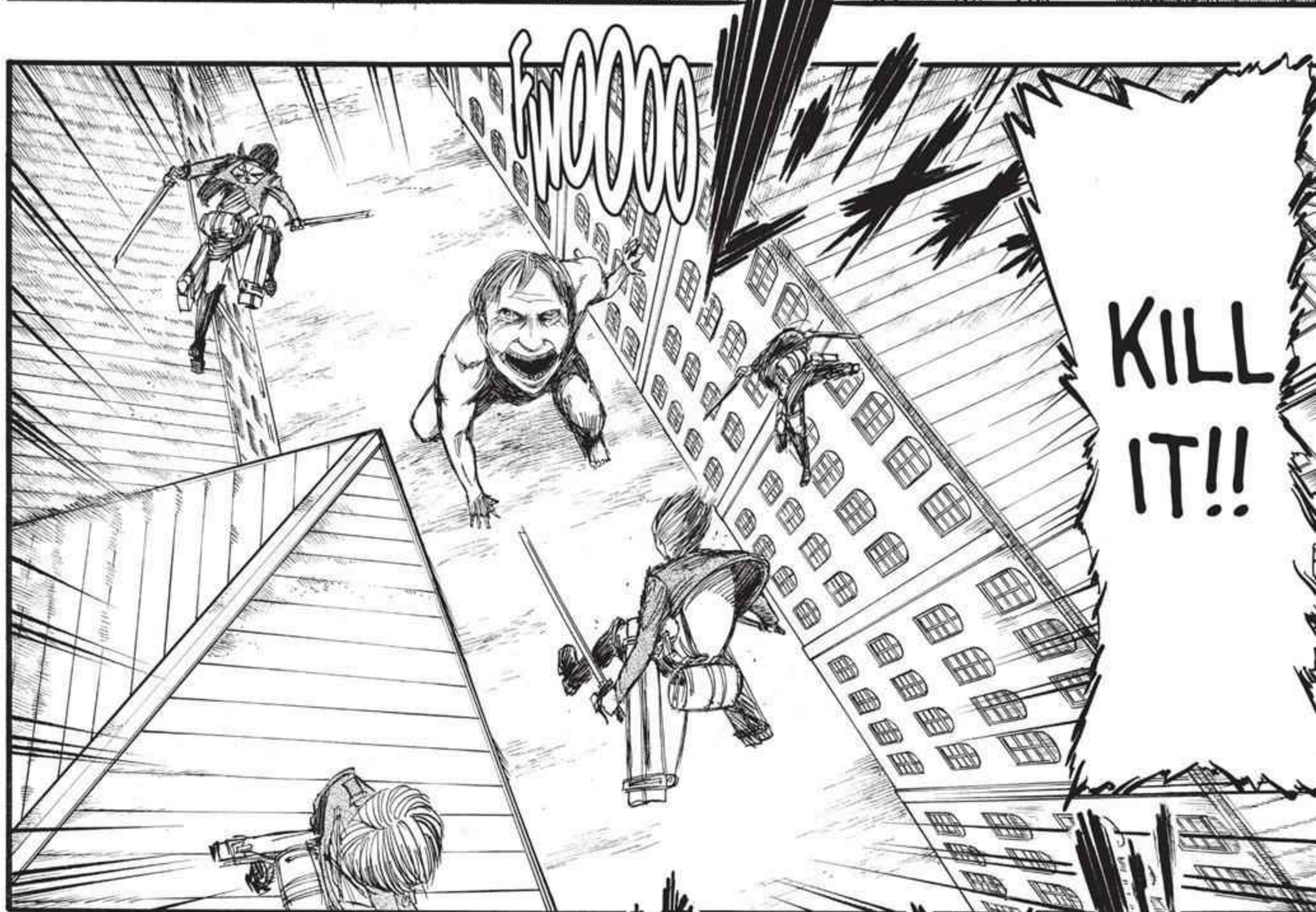
THOMAS!!

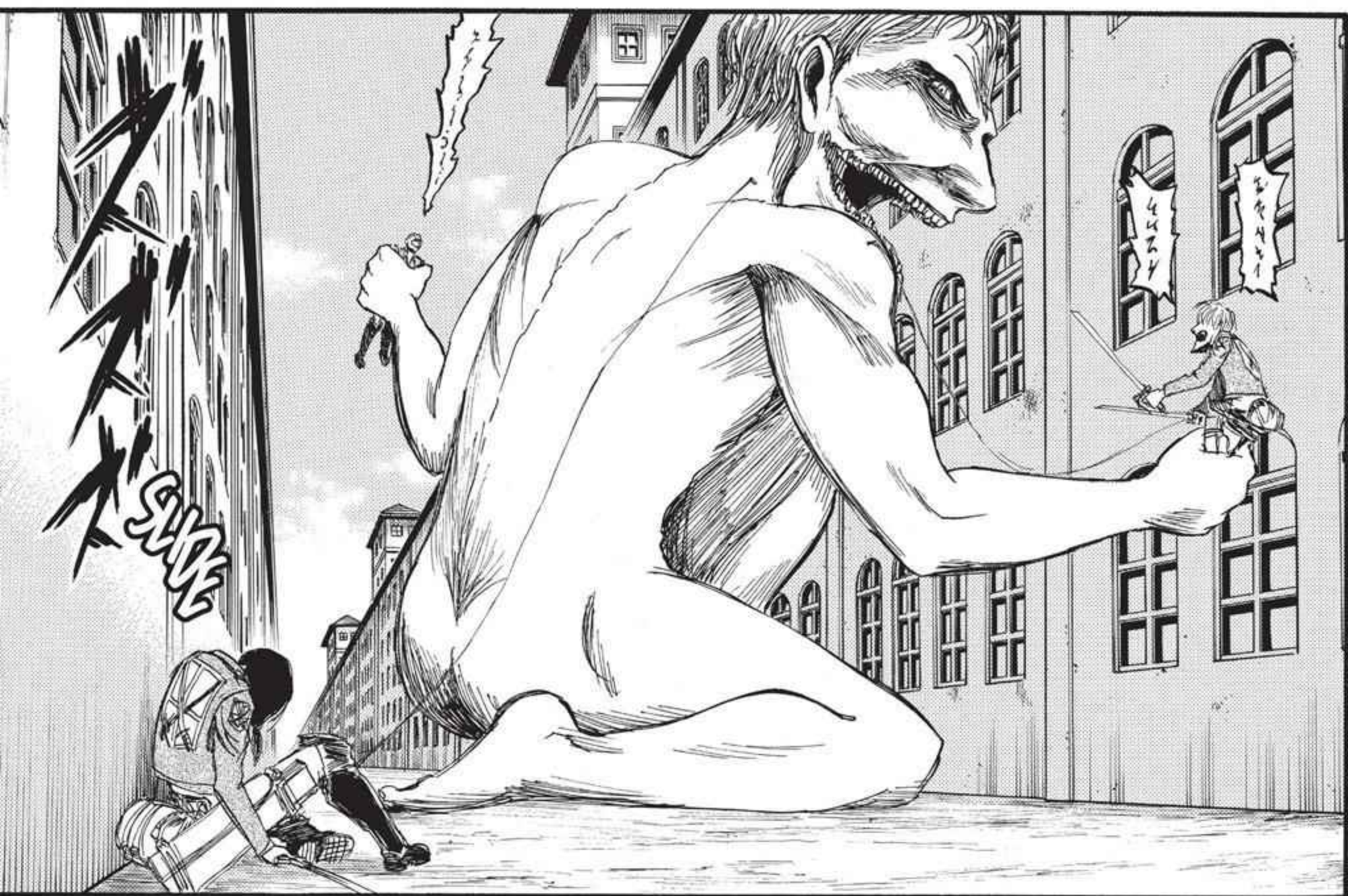
Even

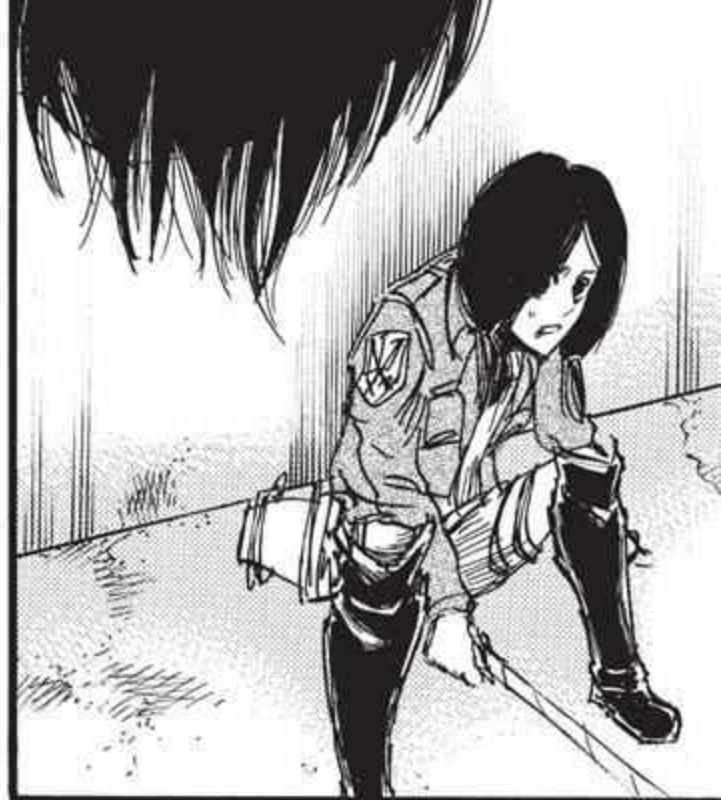










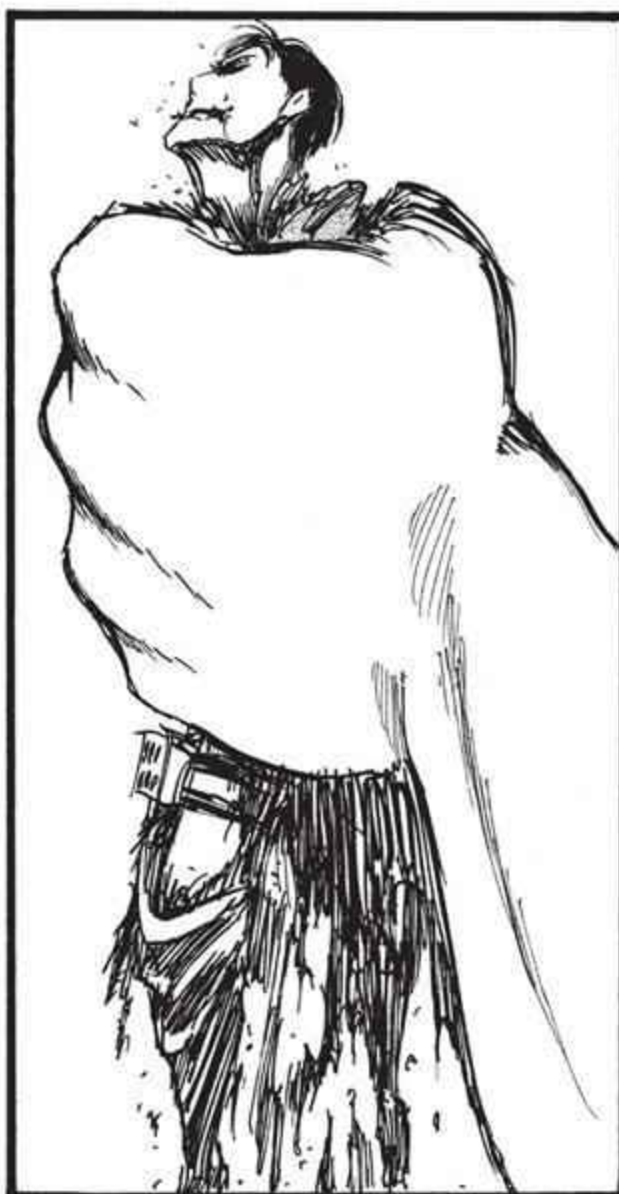


...DO I... *キヤ*

あ あ あ あ

WHY...

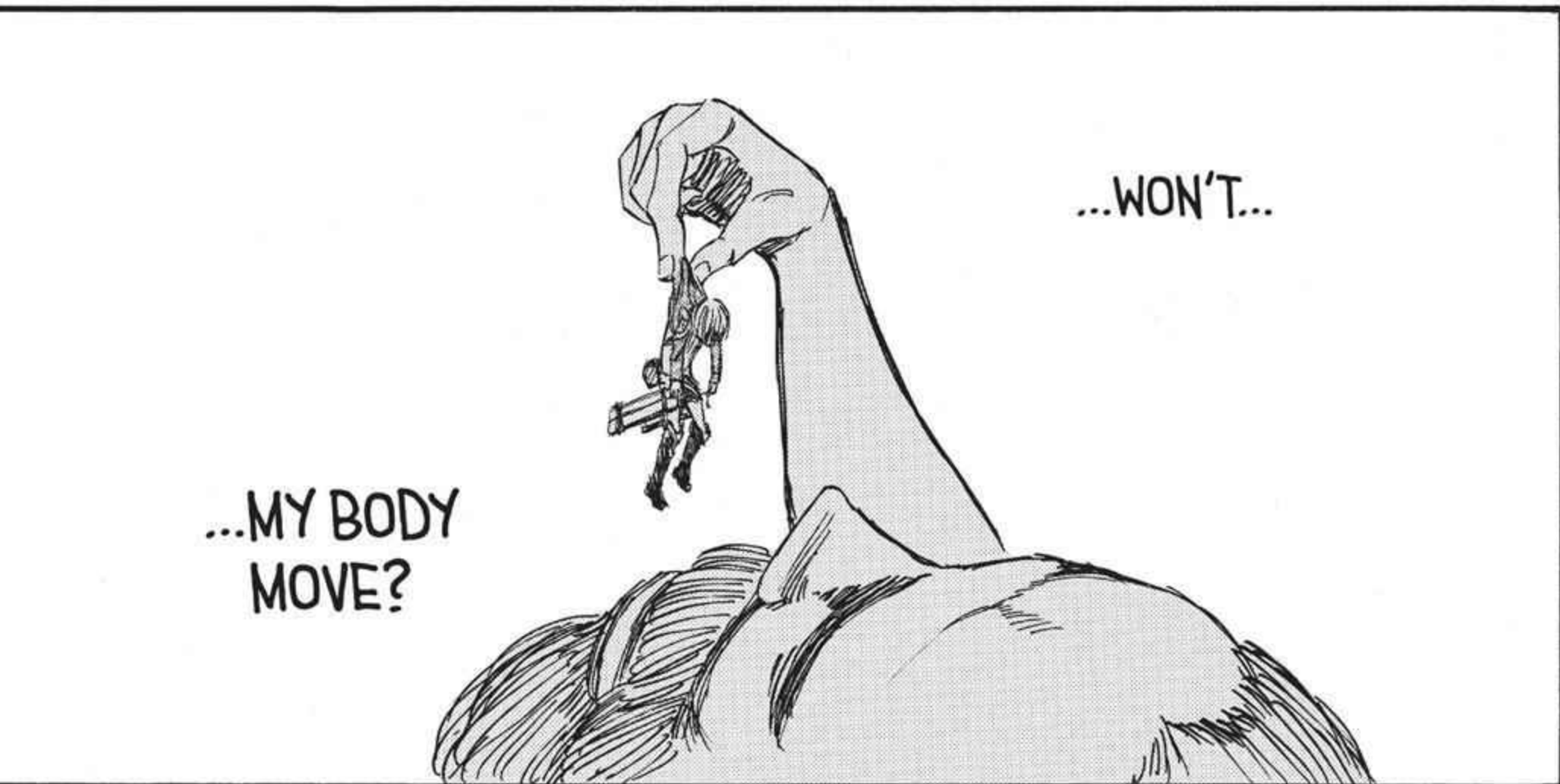
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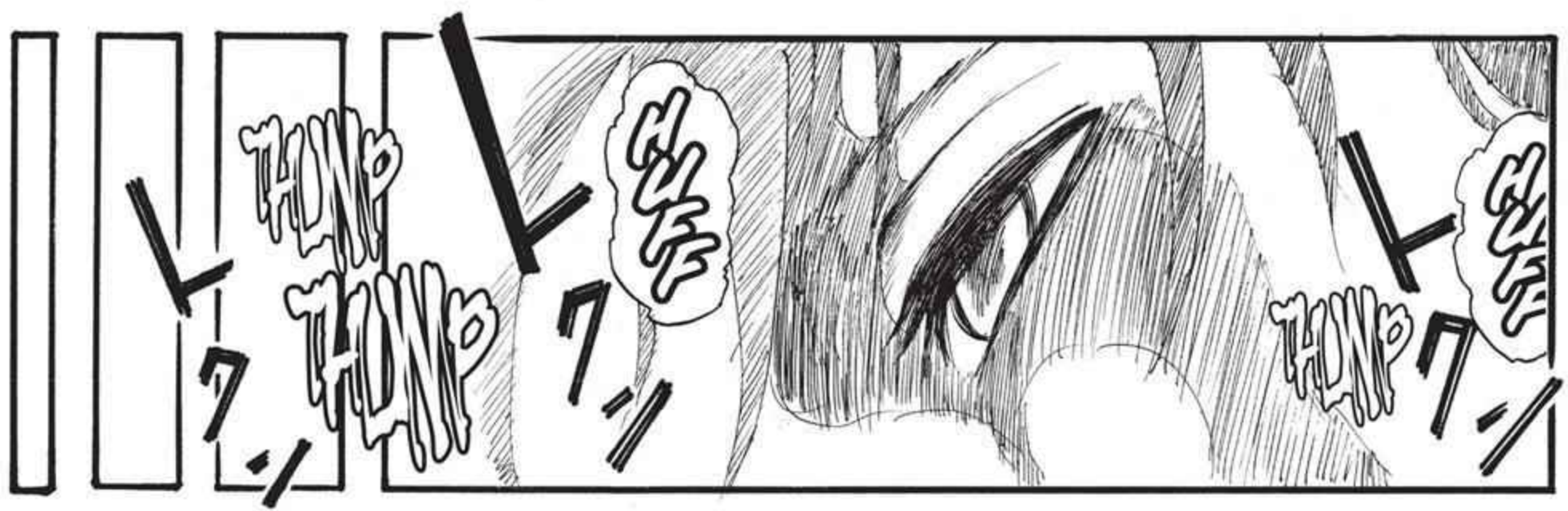
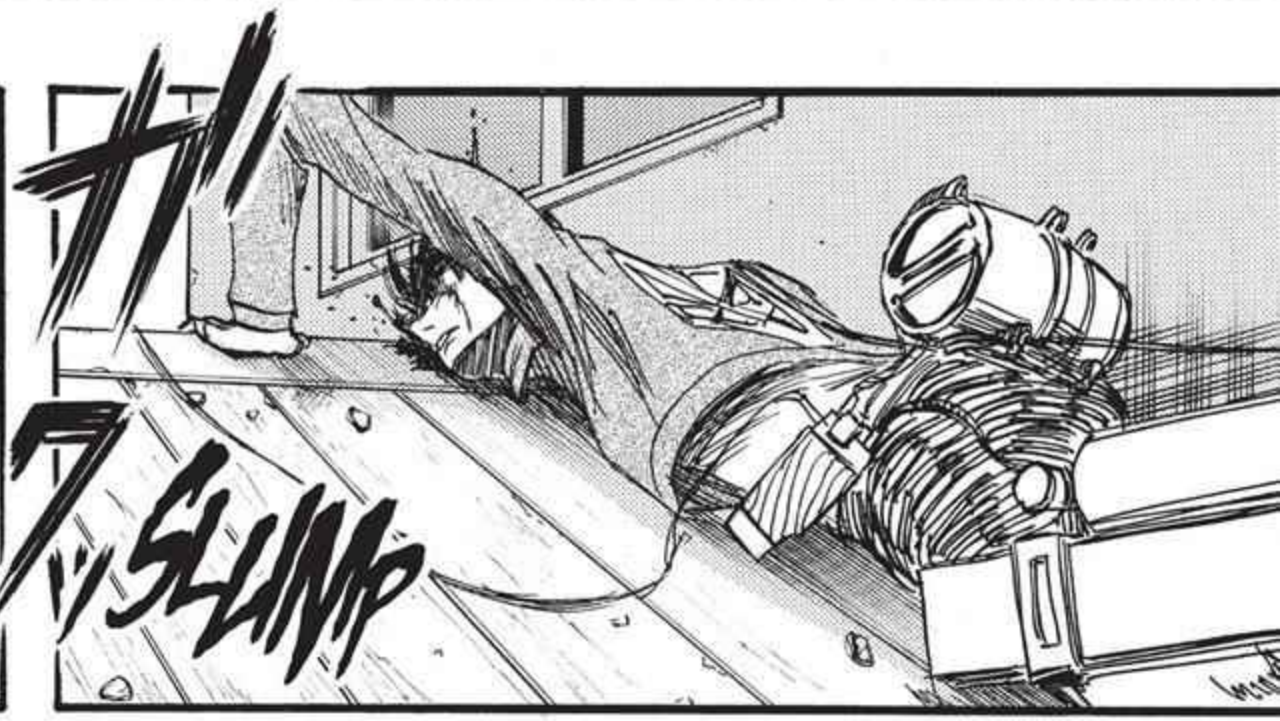


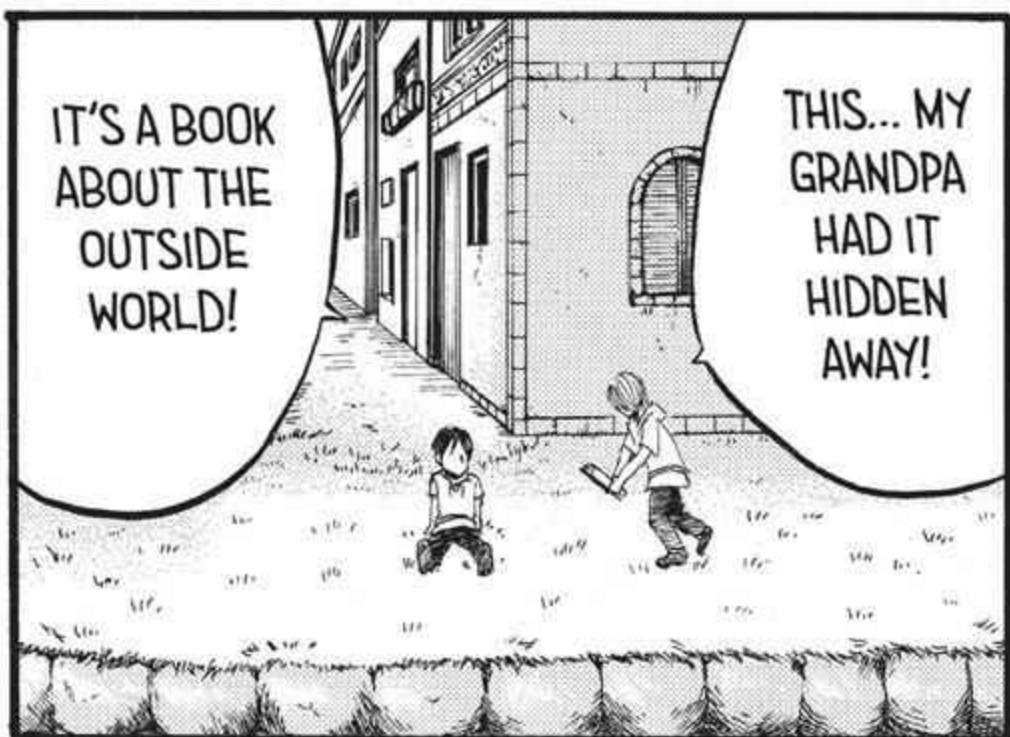
... MY COM-
RADES BEING
EATEN?

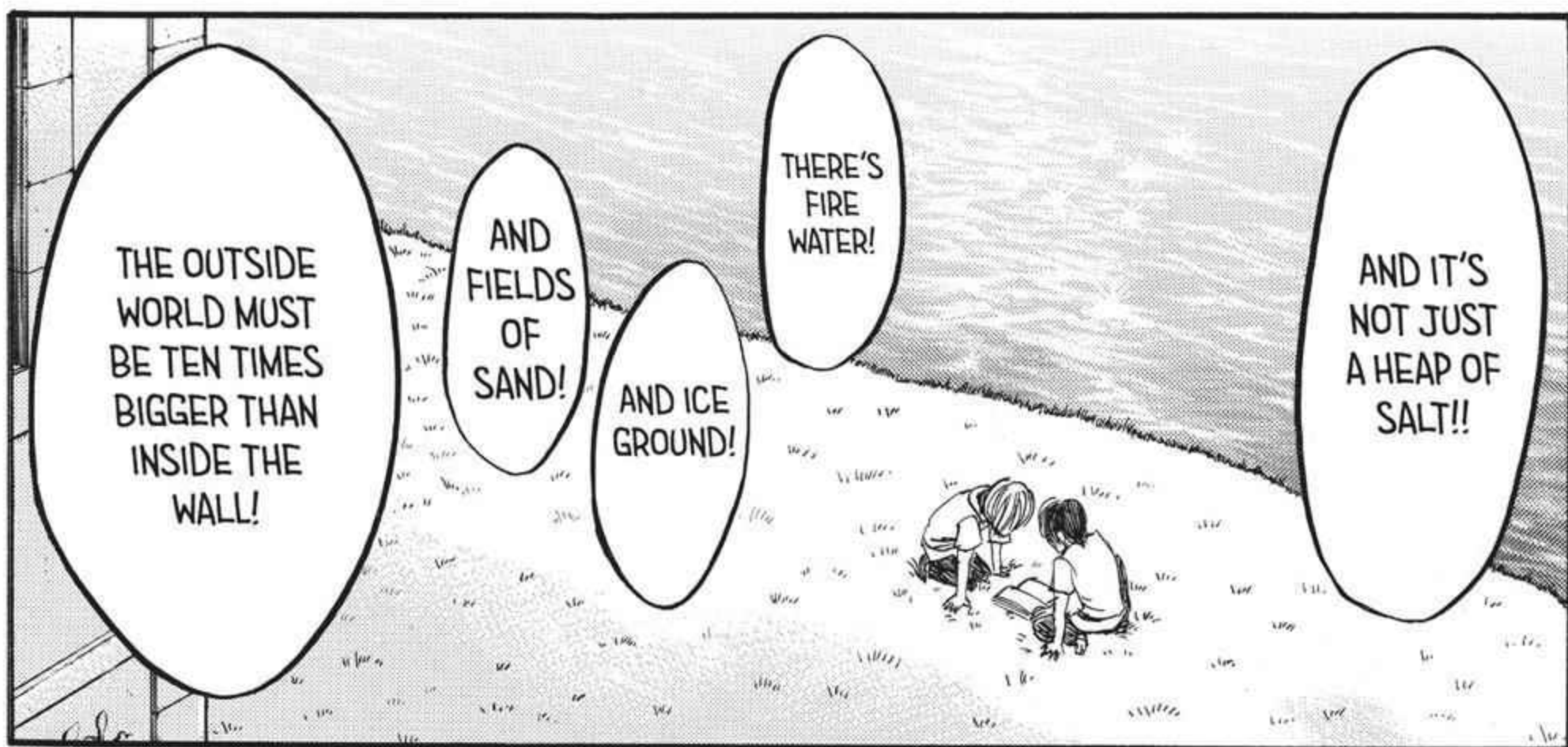


...HAVE TO
WATCH...

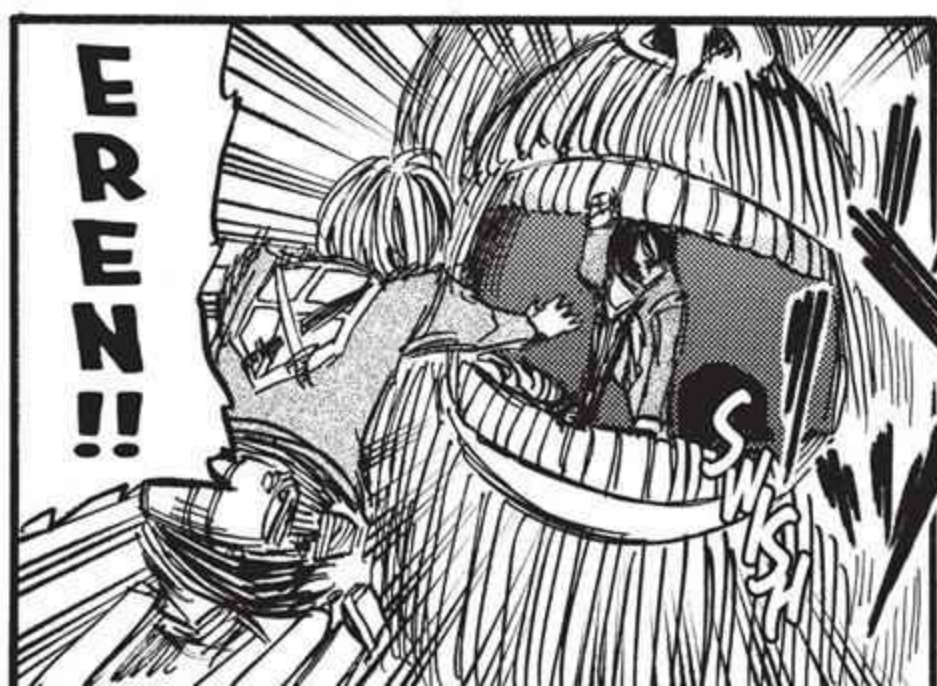














HEY...
ARMIN...

YOU...



THINK
I'M...
GONNA
DIE
HERE...
?



SO I'M...
GOING TO
THE OUTSIDE
WORLD...

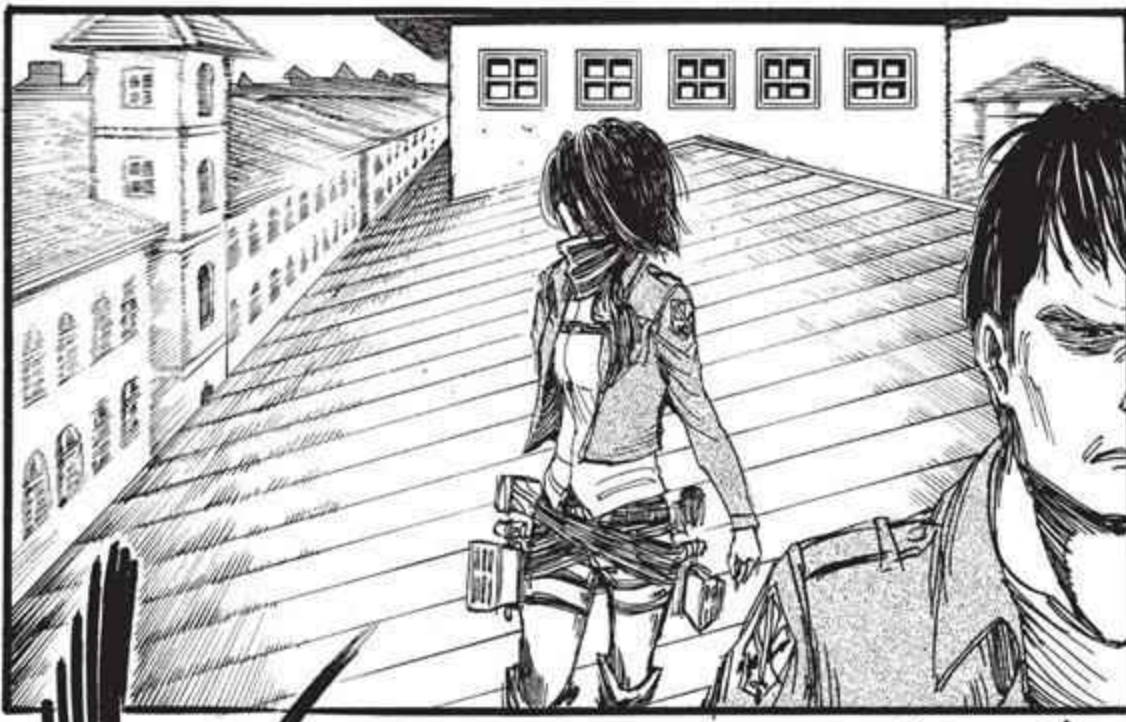
YOU
TOLD ME
ABOUT
IT...



OO-CKY!!

EREN!!

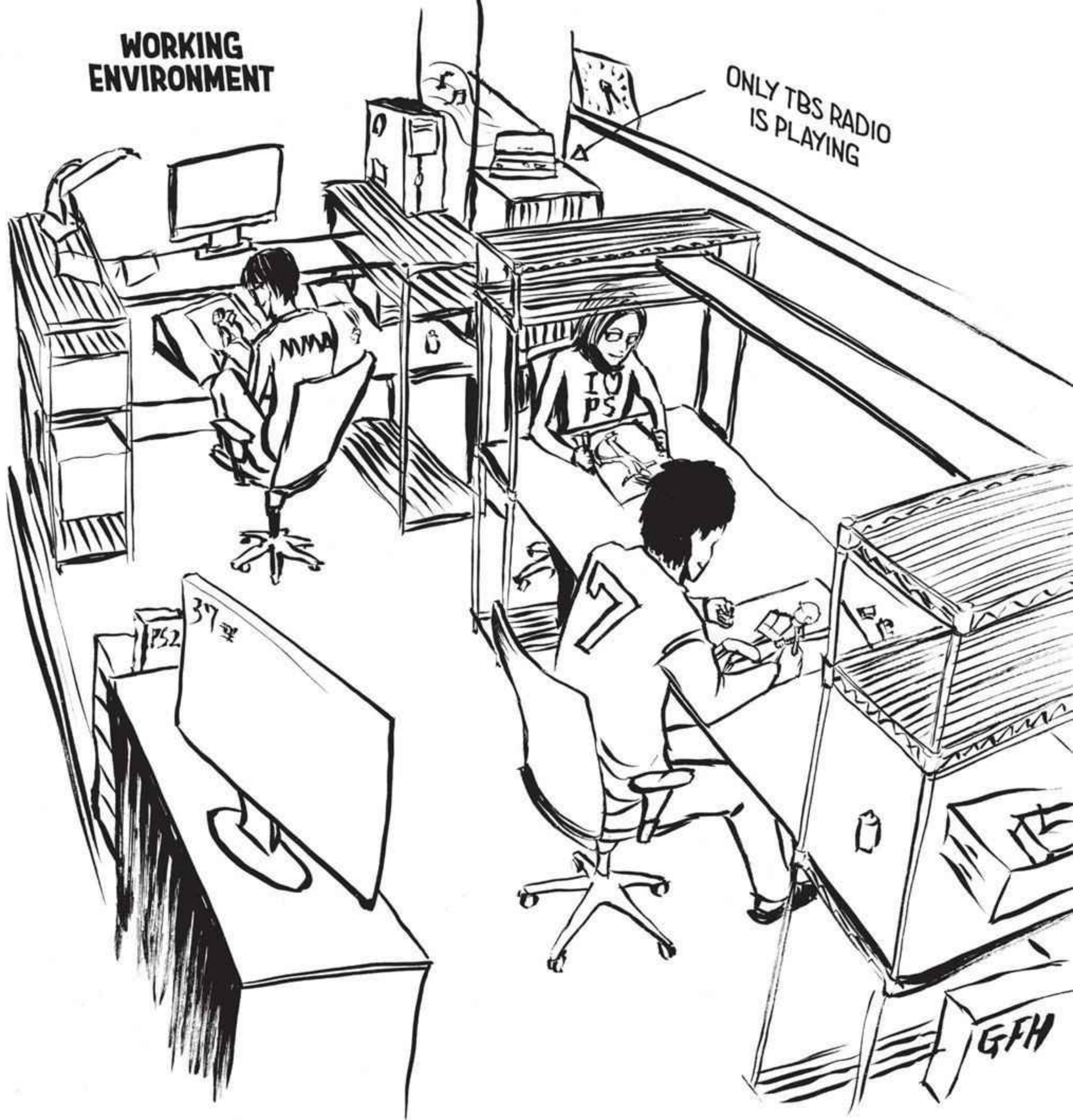




Continued in Volume 2

**WORKING
ENVIRONMENT**

ONLY TBS RADIO
IS PLAYING



SHINX-SAN
OUMI-SAN
SOMETIMES TAKANIWA-SAN

EVERYONE WHO READ
"ATTACK ON TITAN"

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

ULTRA-SPECIAL BONUS!!*



**DANGER! THIS INTERVIEW WITH
"ATTACK ON TITAN" CREATOR
HAYIME ISAYAMA CONTAINS
SPOILERS FOR FUTURE VOLUMES!**

We asked you, the readers, to send in questions you want to ask Mr. Isayama, and many of you obliged. We pitched them one by one to Mr. Isayama and he came back with answers we never would've expected. This interview of a sort demands to be read and we're using several pages to bring it to you. We weren't able to print every single question and answer, but please enjoy the Q and A with as much space as we were able to provide!!

EDITOR: Thank you for being here today. We've received a lot of questions from the readers. Please answer to the best of your ability.

MR. ISAYAMA (hence referred to as ISA): I have a feeling most of my answers will be boring, but... fire away. Nothing is taboo.

EDITOR: Then let's begin.

"Why did you decide on giants as the theme of this work?"

ISA: Well, giants are kind of gross, aren't they? That's why.

"Has anything in your life changed since the series has become so popular?"

ISA: I got a weird phone call from my bank. They were wondering about the sudden increase of funds in my savings, so they probably thought I was running some bank transfer scam. (LOL)

"Do you have a way to clear out the cobwebs when you're tired or when you need to decide some important story point?"

ISA: Shadowboxing with the hanging lamp cord in my house is very soothing.

"What made you decide to become a manga artist?"

ISA: I just decided one day, is all. I had a habit of doodling and daydreaming anyway, so I was fortunate that my interests were compatible with something that's profitable.

"Mr. Isayama, what is your fetish?"

ISA: I have a body hair fetish.

"How do you get over those times when making manga gets tough?"

ISA: I don't. (LOL) I think it's always equal parts tough and fun.

"Where do you get your ideas for stories?"





A signed sketch by an artist Mr. Isayama respects, Mr. Nihei. It's a treasured possession that hangs on his wall.

ISA: This doesn't have to do with creating stories, but when I'm half-awake, like just before I drift off to sleep, my mind gets flooded with information I've seen or heard subconsciously. I call it "Super Enlightenment Time." And this is true, I'm not kidding.

"If a character from another manga series in Betsu Maga became a Titan, what would it look like?"

ISA: Maybe something like this.

EDITOR: I'm surprised! You actually drew a sketch here!

ISA: Yes. I said that nothing was taboo, so... (LOL) I'm worried that I'll get blasted for overdoing it in the sketch...

EDITOR: Well, if you do ruffle some feathers with this, I'll go over and apologize with you. But on to the next question... "Is there a manga artist whom you respect?"

ISA: There are plenty of them. Of course, there are my fellow manga artists in Betsu Maga, but also Tsutomu Nihei, Ryouji Minagawa, Kentarou Miura, Hideki Arai, Tooru Mitsumine, and I could go on and on. I'm still a fledgling.

"Who is your favorite character in Attack on Titan?"

ISA: That would be Jean. Jean comes right out and says what he's thinking, even if it's something you normally wouldn't be able to say. That's what I like about him.



Jean Kirstein. I like the name, too.

"Out of all the manga you've read, which has had the most influence on you?"

ISA: ARMS.

"How far ahead do you have Attack on Titan plotted out?"

In terms of broad strokes, I've got it pretty well thought out to way, way down the line. And I've got outlines that say like, such-and-such a truth will be revealed in volume 5 and around volume 10, this situation is going to happen. See, if I didn't decide these things before it sees publication, I wouldn't even be able to come up with ideas. Although I don't flesh it out until

I'm actually working on it...

"What do you think of Miyajima (Masanori Miyajima)?"

ISA: He's got a permanent crease on his nose from his glasses.

"Aren't you going to have female Titans?"

ISA: I wonder if I should say this... They're rare.

"I always forget how the kanji for "Isa" in your last name goes. Is there a good way to remember how to write it?"

ISA: You can write it however. I'll answer either way.

"Mr. Isayama, I want to see where you work!"

ISA: That's the one thing I hope you'll cut me some slack on! I really don't want to show you, since it's a mess...

"If you were on a desert island and could only have three things, what would you choose besides me and a guitar?"

ISA: Other than you and a guitar, I guess I would bring a U.S. armed forces fleet.

"No special question."

ISA: Whaaat?!

"Mr. Isayama, what were you like as a child?"



We went ahead and took photos of Mr. Isayama's studio.



ISA: I don't really want to recall my childhood...

"Do you use a model for the Titans?"

ISA: For the Titan version of Eren, I use martial artist Yuushin Okami's body as a model. My ideal is the physique of a middleweight mixed martial artist. I only use the shape of the body as a model.

"I'm guessing that drawing Titans after a long time would do things to your mind. Do you have nightmares about them?"

ISA: I don't think giants are really scary in the first place, so no, never.

"What's the scariest thing in the world?"

ISA: A bunch of middle school girls looking at me and going, "Ewww" while laughing.

"Please tell me your basic one-month schedule."

ISA: I take a week to storyboard and three weeks to draw.

"Mikasa is always wearing the scarf she got from Eren. Doesn't she get hot?"

ISA: She doesn't wear it when it's hot outside.

"Mr. Isayama, at what age did you start drawing?"

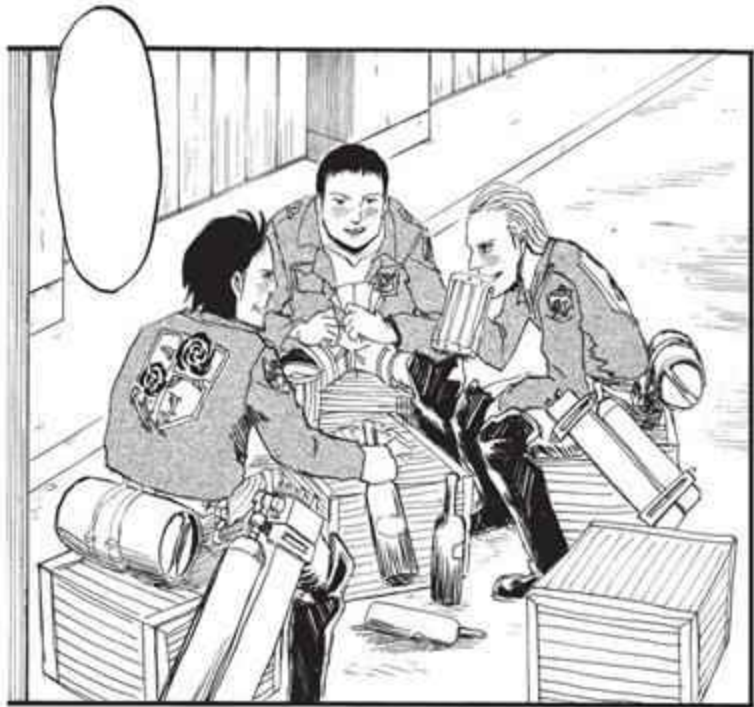
ISA: I have a memory of being praised for a drawing I did of a dragon when I was in kindergarten.

"Are you sometimes mistaken for the manga artist who does the series GIANT KILLING (about soccer)?"

ISA: Just recently, my own editor made that mistake.



Yushin Okami, whom Mr. Isayama uses as a model.



These Garrison soldiers drink alcohol in the middle of the afternoon. Surely Mr. Isayama doesn't do *that* at work?!

"What manga do you recommend right now?"

ISA: All-rounder Meguru and Iron Wind!!

"Mr. Isayama, which character in Attack on Titan most resembles you?"

ISA: Hmm... Mr. Hannes and the Garrison soldiers in volume 1 who sit around drinking booze.

"Is there a story that you want to do after finishing Attack on Titans?"

ISA: There's a story I've had in my mind since high school. If I get lucky enough for it to be published someday, I hope everyone reads it!

"Do you have a favorite scene in Attack on Titan?"

ISA: The scene where the TV studio gets taken over and rock 'n' roll music is playing. Sorry...

"What's your favorite food?"

ISA: I'm not really into food.**

"How do you spend your free time?"

ISA: Drooling as I surf the net.

"What would you look like if you were a Titan, Mr. Isayama?"

ISA: I'm sure I'd look something like this. (LOL)

EDITOR: Thank you very much! One last question. "From what page does the story really get going?"

ISA: Just wait for the 420th page and up! Please keep reading!



Scary in a way...

* This interview originally appeared in Bessatsu Shonen Magazine December 2010 issue.

** Apparently, if he's not careful, he'll drop to 40 kilos [88 lbs] without realizing it...

